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Goodwill of Southern Nevada

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Introduction

History and Purpose

Goodwill was established in 1902 by Reverend Edgar J. Helms in the city of Boston (Goodwill Industries International). Before establishing Goodwill, Rev. Helms used to collect household items and clothing from the wealthier areas of his city, and then train and hire people who were poor to mend and repair the goods. After the goods were repaired, he would then resell the items or give them to the individuals that repaired them. From that system, he created the Goodwill organization began and how the Goodwill philosophy of “Not Charity, but a Chance” began. Goodwill’s mission is to “enhance the dignity and quality of life of individuals and families by helping people reach their full potential through education, skills training and the power of work” (Goodwill Industries International). Goodwill achieves this by providing training and support services for people who need them. They have assisted people with training in industries such as banking, IT and even health care. Goodwill also provides services for people who need help learning the English language, who need additional education, and even for people who need access to transportation and childcare. Goodwill strongly believes in enhancing the quality of life for “individuals and families by strengthening communities, eliminating barriers to opportunity, and helping people in need reach their full potential through learning and the power of work” (Goodwill Industries International).

Social Issue Research

Social Issue Addressed

To fulfill its purpose, my service learning site focuses on addressing the social issue of poverty in America. Although my service learning site is addressing the social issue of poverty here in Southern Nevada, poverty is a social issue that affects nearly every part of our world. As defined by the Merriam-Webster’s dictionary, “the state of one lacking material or financial resources” (Merriam-Webster’s dictionary). In other words, poverty is the lack of the means to meet one’s basic human needs. Poverty is a problem faced by millions of people under the “poverty” category. According to the United Nations, 767 million people live below the international poverty line of $1.00 a day (United Nations).

Current and Ideal State of Issue

In the most recent poverty report done by the United States Census Bureau, the official poverty rate in the United States was 12.7 percent (United States Census Bureau). This is the lowest poverty rate since the Great Recession of the United States in 2008 (Goodwill of Southern Nevada). In 2014, the poverty rate for the nation was 14.5, almost 1.8 percent of the western states for the same period (U.S. Census Bureau). In our state, Clark County, 37.6 of the people were living in poverty (Goodwill of Southern Nevada).

Poverty is a social issue that affecting many people, especially people here in our own town. The effects of poverty are far-reaching and can impact a person’s health, emotional well-being, quality of life, and their ability to function to their full potential. Poverty impacts more than just the individual, the neighborhood, community, and the state. This is why it is important for us to be aware of this issue and take action to help the people who are affected by poverty (Legal Aid Society of Southern Nevada, 1995). Poverty impacts many other social issues such as health, education, and crime. It is very hard to solve one problem without solving the others, as well (Goodwill of Southern Nevada).

The most common way to measure poverty is the poverty threshold set by the U.S. Census Bureau. The poverty threshold is the income level below which a household is considered to be living in poverty. This threshold is updated annually to account for changes in the cost of living and is used to calculate the poverty rate. The poverty threshold is calculated using a set of factors, including the size and composition of the household, the region of the country, and the type of family. For example, the poverty threshold for a family of four is higher than the poverty threshold for a single person.

In the U.S., the poverty threshold is calculated using the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The CPI is a measure of the average change over time in the prices paid by urban consumers for a market basket of consumer goods and services. The poverty threshold is calculated using a formula that takes into account the CPI and other factors, such as the household’s size and composition.

Differences in My Own Views

In the future, I hope to continue to do a dozen or more of Goodwill to help combat the social issue of poverty in Southern Nevada. Through continuing to support Goodwill, I hope to assist them in employing people who have worked with you and jobs with them in their daily lives. Although I believe that any type of service is meaningful, I think that volunteering is the most meaningful type of service you can do. I believe this because through volunteering you can actively engage and take part in something. Volunteering, for me, allows me to actively engage and take part in something. Volunteering, for me, allows me to actively engage and take part in something.