Volunteering with Project 150

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Eric Gonzalez, COE 202 Section 1020

Social Issue

Student Homelessness

- Student homelessness is a large problem, as the students’ financial hardships heavily affect their education. This ultimately ruins several opportunities that the average student usually has such as going to college or pursuing a career. Without their education, they are less likely to get out of their predicament. They also more likely to be exposed to dangerous activities, such as crimes and sex trafficking.

Current and Ideal State of Student Homelessness

- Each and every day, student homelessness continues to grow. In Nevada, there are approximately 24,000 homeless students, with nearly half of them coming from Las Vegas. This is only a mere fraction of homeless students in the United States, which adds up to 1.26 million. It doesn’t stop there however; youth homelessness reaches 150 million across the entire world. Every homeless student faces similar situations. Whether it’d be struggling to find their next meal, or where they will sleep for the night, all homeless students are constantly striving to survive.

- If the issue were to be completely resolved, all students across the world would have a home and the chance to pursue the education they deserve. This would drastically drop the rate in homelessness. Thus, the founders came together and created an event that would help out 17 homeless families. The success of the event ultimately led to the establishment of Project 150.

Project 150 addresses student homelessness as its issue. It addresses a problem and its solutions, and develops a solution to this issue, which is giving those students and their families the necessary supplies to reduce the struggles they face. The organization plans to do this by collecting donations and sorting them out so they can be given to the families.

Project 150 also provides one on one mentorship, and raises money for scholarship opportunities.

Service Site Approach to Issue

- Project 150 addresses student homelessness by giving homeless high school students basic necessities such as food, clothing, school supplies, etc. They help these students as much as possible so they can focus more on their education and less in their financial hardships.

Service to Community

- During my service, I assisted Project 150 in sorting food and clothing for homeless high school students. I also contributed to making over 100 meal bags for homeless families.

- By helping Project 150, I am helping lower the number of homeless people in the community. This will lead to a cleaner and healthier community.

Expectations

- When first volunteering for Project 150, I expected the tasks to be relevant to the issue at hand, as well as the platform of the organization. With no surprise, my expectations were met.

Differences I Made at the Site

- While I didn’t help change anything in the organization, I still feel like I made a difference at the site. Since I helped organize and prepare for bags, I lifted a small weight off of their shoulders, thus making a difference.

Personal & Professional Learning

- A personal insight I learned was that teamwork and communication is essential in the workplace. This was evident when creating meal bags for families.

Future Change, Effort, and Outcomes

- In the future, I would like to see a significant decrease in the number of students who are homeless or close to being homeless. Those who are still unfortunate should be in a position to help them get them back on their feet. Someday I wish to collaborate with Project 150 to help out even more homeless high school students.

References

2. Getting Homeless youth off of the world’s streets. (2019). Targeted News Service USA.