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The Crossing, A Christian Church

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**Introduction**

**HISTORY & PURPOSE**

Senior Pastor Shane Phillip and a committed group of volunteers had one mission in mind—“Helping people discover Jesus and The Journey.”

- Opened in September 2000 at Lawrence Junior High
- Each year the church grew 15%
- 2005 20-acre campus on Buffalo and Windmill was built
- Works locally/globally with partnerships
- Currently has two additional campuses and microsites

**COMMUNITY SERVICE PARADIGM**

The uplifting environment and involvement The Crossing has with its community shows that the service paradigm it best fits is social change. According to Figure 1, social change falls within the alignment of a high amount of investment in relationships, as well as concern with root causes. The church would cease to exist without the relationships it creates with the Las Vegas community. Therefore, the church must address more than just one social issue. These range from poverty to adult entertainment.

**SOCIAL ISSUE RESEARCH**

The Reach Café is a nonprofit that donates all of its proceeds back to the community. This is done by collecting all of the cafe’s earnings at the end of the year and dividing that total among all of the partnerships. However, there is an underlying social issue the church intends to address and that being to lead more people to know God. The people are what bring the church to life. If there are no people attending, there is no church. In this scenario, it would be impossible to aid in any social issue, both locally and globally.

- “Although church facilities are a potential resource for health promotion activities, these have little value if people are unwilling to access programs within a church due to concerns about proselytization,” (Ayton, et al, 2016).
- “...[religious institutions] in comparison with government agencies, is believed that they are more sensitive to people in times of chaos...are responsive to people’s needs and flexible in their provision, act with honesty and take distribution seriously,” (Mitchell, 2017).

**IDEAL STATE**

- Even ratio of staff and volunteers to guests
- Increased church attendance for local/global support by donations and involvement
  - “The Harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few,” (Matthew 9:37).

**APPROACH**

- Creating a welcoming environment for all
- Bring hope to those who are hurting and struggling
  - Building relationships with the community
- Offer opportunities for community to get involved

**REFERENCES**


**SERVICE EXPERIENCE & MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

- Provide a welcoming environment for anybody who attends the church
- Build a community
  - Greeting guests
  - Answering guest questions
- Most importantly, hand out FREE coffee

**DIFFERENCES IN MY OWN VIEWS**

Some view making a difference as something macroscopic and largely impactful. This is indeed a form of difference making, but making a difference includes small actions scale as well. The small scale impact you make to your community are large impacts towards the socials issues that are faced.

**PERSONAL/PROFESSIONAL LEARNING**

Service Learning has devolved my communication skills and helped me to realize the importance of serving. This was by the relationships I built and the ability to impact those around me positively. Building strong relationships will take me farther in my future career. Therefore, I intend to be compassionate about others to create the environment I wish to live in.