

Boys and Girls Club – Columbus Project Executive Summary

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PROJECT PROPOSAL ITEM 1: Realized Project Summary & Benefit

This semester, the Kolumbus Kiwis was assigned to the Boys and Girls Club of Columbus. The time spent there was a great experience and is one that has helped each of us stay active members of the community. We aspired to accomplish tutoring the students, building relationships with them, and improving our teamwork skills. We accomplished all of our goals and more.

Our service project goal was to find a way to incorporate the Boys and Girls Club's ideal of being a safe place, which would be an area for students to focus on schoolwork or project and not feel uncomfortable. To do so, we created a safe space in a corner of each classroom. The space would not just be a reward for the students but also a place to read comfortably after finishing homework. The safe space consisted of pillows, a rug, and a crate. To enhance the space, we also painted the walls with something that represented each class. Also, we felt like if the child was having a bad day then this would provide them a safety net to think and calm down. Our team is hoping that each child truly benefits from these corners.

Going to the Boys and Girls Club has been an amazing experience. We love the kids that we interact with and have become close to them as the weeks have gone by. They look forward to us coming every week and helping them as much as possible in the time allotted. Although we

have only been volunteering for about three months, the bonds with the children and lessons we have learned will last a lifetime.

Our CP benefited a lot from our volunteerism and service. In our time at the Boys and Girls Club, we have helped children with homework, assisted with classwork, and helped the kids relax after school. Also, in the hours we spent there, we helped our CP stay safe by watching children and helping with gym time.

These accomplishments helped us to be very successful with our community partner. The children formed bonds with us, which we believe was the biggest goal accomplished. The students felt like they had someone in their corner and that is exactly what we wanted. Being able to be a positive role model for them was also something we achieved. Within our time volunteering, we have driven a combination of 878 miles (60 miles there and back to the campus) and we have worked with 397 children and 11 adults total. Our time volunteering has summed up to be 55 hours.

PROJECT PROPOSAL ITEM 2: Leadership Lessons Learned

Our team has grown over the course of this project. Throughout our time together, we faced a few obstacles that stopped us momentarily. In the beginning, we struggled with finding time that worked for everyone to plan and complete the project itself, but that only taught us to adjust our schedules. We did not let the time conflict with the task given. Above that, our biggest issue was the distance needed to drive to complete volunteer hours and the project. Our drive to the Boys and Girls Club takes a total of an hour and 60 miles round trip. This halted us from being able to go whenever we wanted to. Each week we kept pushing to get there as much as we

could. We chose to carpool to save money on gas. In the end, we told ourselves that we made a promise to our community partner that we intended to keep.

The most important leadership lesson we learned, as a group, is commitment. Being committed to volunteering means taking time out of your schedule to serve others so you can fulfill something that is not required. This involved dedication from each person on our action team. Anyone can go to their CP site and get credit for being there, but it takes a truly committed individual to continue this process.

Collectively, we were expected to learn the fundamental qualities of a leader and what it takes to obtain those qualities. Consequently, we ended up learning how to better manage our time due to the demand of scheduling. Everyone had a different agenda and working around that was hectic at times. The first date we had planned was not in the best fit for the teachers, so we conversed with them and sought out a date that would be beneficial to them along with ourselves. Staying devoted to going every week and completing the project, even with the challenges, showed that we were committed to our CP.

Many of the leadership lessons learned this semester will be very beneficial to us in the future. Commitment and communication skills are two very important skills that we will be able to utilize in our future leadership positions. Commitment to a team is very important, especially when it comes to deadlines and goals. Our action team was able to stay organized and ahead of schedule for completing our project. Communication skills are also vital for a leader. We had the chance to learn how to communicate through discussion with each other, our community partner, and others outside the group through project proposals. Being able to communicate to all three of these categories is very important skills in the future. The leadership skills gained this semester will be very beneficial in our future jobs and leadership positions.