

Red Pod--Oktibbeha County Humane Society Group One

Day One Leadership Program

November 17, 2016

PROJECT EXECUTIVE ITEM 1: Realized Project Summary and Benefit

As the Oktibbeha County Humane Society Group 1 for the Day One Leadership Program, we collectively utilized our time and effort to help gain supplies for the shelter. At the beginning of the semester, our team worked to form multiple ideas including a dog and car wash, a dog fashion show, and then a supply drive. Our team achieved the majority of our original goals, and we decided to host a supply drive based on practicality. Our primary goal was to spend time aiding the shelter individually, collect supplies for the upcoming winter months, raise money to benefit the shelter, and to make Starkville more aware of animals without homes. Over the course of the semester, as a team, we have collectively logged 115 hours, visited 50 times, and traveled over 300 miles. We did not only spend time in the shelter walking dogs, cleaning the shelter, and socializing with cats, we also hosted a supply drive within the dorms and at PetSense in order to bring in supplies to keep the animals warm as the winter months approach. In addition, we stocked the humane society with other supplies such as food, toys, and cleaning supplies.

Along with our supply drive, our group helped the other group in the Red Pod who works at the Oktibbeha County Humane Society with their project. They had a dog fashion show to raise money and awareness for the humane society. Our team helped with set up, dress and walk the dogs, and take down. Our accomplishments are important because it is helping us grow as individuals as well as a team. With us hosting a supply drive, this opens up new ideas to help the

humane society. Our group has made close relationships with the animals, and it has made the animals more comfortable being around us. As we have grown individually, it has helped us make more logical and fair decisions as a team. Our project has taught us to keep these things we have learned as a team even in the years to come.

PROJECT EXECUTIVE ITEM 2: Leadership Lessons Learned

The greatest challenges our team has faced has been lack of advertisement, boxes being thrown away by residence halls, time management, communication, and producing practical project ideas. Although we faced many challenges, our team overcame these difficulties through printing more flyers, talking to the council of residential experiences (CORE), making time during our weeks to go to the shelter, staying active on the group message, and staying in contact with Mrs. Christy (the manager of the humane society) through being involved at the shelter.

We expected to learn many things in our service-learning experience. We thought we would learn about the adoption policies and regulations of the shelter, how to better interact with the animals, and we wanted to learn how to better manage our time and potentially determine our future career paths, but throughout this semester we have learned a lot more than just the things we expected. We learned that in order to be a leader, you cannot lead all the time. Plus, we had to let each other grow and learn about dedication. In order to do the amount of community service involved, we had to do it wholeheartedly. Our team learned the importance of teamwork. We could have never accomplished everything we wanted to do without the help of everyone involved. As we are finishing our first semester of college, we have all learned the importance of time management in our daily lives. But most importantly, we learned that nothing ever seems to go as planned and to always have a back-up plan.