

Palmer Home Project Executive Summary

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**PROJECT EXECUTIVE ITEM 1: Accomplishments**

The Denim Pod, also known as the Horse Whisperers, serves Palmer Home for Children in Columbus, Mississippi. This semester, our team aspired to rebuild a run-in shed on the Palmer Home property to provide shelter for all of their horses instead of a select few. This is important because there is one dominant male horse, who only allows a small group of female horses underneath the shed with him. Along with the big project of completing the shelter, we aimed to finish daily barn tasks and anything extra they requested of our team. This included helping Palmer Home with their annual horse show that they put on to allow their children to showcase their talents and what they have worked on all year. Our team will only be visiting for the semester, however, the run-in shelter will continue to benefit them for hopefully years to come. In between visiting Palmer Home for Children this semester, our team put in 165 hours and 35 minutes overall, over 64 visits, and traveled a total of 4,096 miles.

As a group, we have collaborated very well while working in class and at Palmer Home. We have accomplished almost all of the tasks that we aspired to do including regular upkeep of the barn, helping with their annual horse show, and starting on reconstructing the run-in shed at the new location of which we are in the final stages. These accomplishments are important because they help benefit Palmer Home by giving them any extra assistance they may need, and creating a shed to benefit them long after our team has left has played a huge role in that as well.

Our team has not only learned a lot about teamwork, but also personal lessons through our project this semester. For our team, the overarching takeaway from the semester is the importance of teamwork in any situation. In any circumstance, there is a certain learning curve that must be adjusted to and learned from by working in a group of students that you have never met before. Along with this, the action team learned that not everyone leads the same way nor does everyone follow the same way. While some leaders are outspoken and are comfortable in their abilities, others can lead by following. Everyone has a different personality, and finding how everyone expresses their leadership abilities is key. However, with that being said, we have found that there is beauty in confidence, especially when leading. Also, with any big project and teamwork, hard work does pay off. As cliché as it may seem, our team has seen this first hand this semester.

## **PROJECT EXECUTIVE ITEM 2: Challenges**

As with any project or team, there were challenges encountered. The lack of experience regarding construction and horses meant that each person had to rely on each other. As the run-in shed began construction, issues were encountered because of normal ground shifting and expected variances in measurements. Likewise, a general lack of knowledge in dealing with equine led to a learning curve for much of our team. Though these presented tangible issues, our team was patient and willing to overcome.

During our group's development, individuals who were not comfortable around horses and barn equipment had to overcome several setbacks. The confidence of others in our group comforted the less bold individuals. Over time, our group learned basic horse care and construction skills. As the semester progressed, it became increasingly difficult to dedicate sufficient time and energy to our project. Being that Palmer Home is not necessarily a short

drive, plus extra time must be allotted for each trip, it is sometimes hard to “make” time to go.

In addition to the amount of time needed to simply go to the campus, there are only certain hours set aside for students to come each week. Having set hours was sometimes an issue when trying to work around our class schedules.