

West Point Animal Shelter

Project Executive Item 1: Realized Project Summary & Benefit

Our action team, Clifford the Big Red Dawgs, was excited to volunteer at the West Point Animal Shelter. The shelter opened in September 2010, and it is a no-kill animal shelter that provides animal adoption and fostering. All of the employees at the shelter are well-trained to provide high levels of care for the animals. We dedicated our time to general upkeep of the shelter and improvement in the lives of the animals. Also, we thought outside the box, and created a pergola. The pergola was built to create an area for the staff to take better pictures of the animals in order to increase the animals' chances of being adopted. Our action team went in with a strong plan and positive attitude to achieve this task.

As a team, we grew in many ways. Our main project of building the pergola acted as a great bonding experience for our team, and we grew closer as a result of that project. Beyond that, each member of our team experienced personal growth through daily service. The service that we contributed is important to our community partner because it helps them do their job more efficiently. The animals benefit by getting extra attention and more potential adoption homes. In total, our group has volunteered 140 hours and 31 minutes and traveled 2,047 miles.

Project Executive Item 2: Leadership Lessons Learned

One of our biggest challenges was trying to find times outside of class for everyone to meet and work together on our project goals. Our team overcame these challenges by communicating more effectively and making a schedule for the days we will work on our project a month in advance. Our team learned that we were able to accomplish a lot more when we all

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worked together as a team. Our team expected to learn how to build things, but truly discovered how difficult it can be to build a structure. Our team also expected to learn about working more effectively with a team full of people with diverse personalities, but we did not expect to grow as a team and become friends as well as we did. We also learned that caring for cats and dogs are very different and we learned those skills through the experience of caring. The leadership lessons we learned during our project and throughout our Day One experience will apply to being able to work with many different people to complete a difficult task in a timely manner. Also, these lessons will benefit us when it comes to our careers and being able to handle the real world.