

Salvation Army Project Executive Summary

Bre Eppenger, Cristina Griffith, Destiny Lewis, Taylor Schweizer, Thomas Dolese,

Day One Leadership Program, SLCE 1002

PROJECT EXECUTIVE ITEM 1: Realized Project Summary & Benefit

This semester our Day One team served the Salvation Army. We have been conquering the task of packing emergency bags of food from the Food Pantry for those in need. Our goal was to pack as much food as needed to continually serve the clients of the Salvation Army. Our service-learning project this semester was to organize the Holiday Room inside the Salvation Army. We chose this task because our hearts were struck by the effects of helping Ms. Katie create a more productive Holiday Room, ultimately bringing more income within the Salvation Army. In the beginning, only Christmas items were available in the Seasonal Selling Floor Room for her customers. We began work on this project by organizing each area of the Holiday Room into separated holidays. The goal was to organize the whole room into designated boxes full of specified items. We want to make everything within the Holiday Room easily transitional for Ms. Katie's staff to rotate all of the holidays in and out of the Holiday Room into the Seasonal Selling Floor Room. By improving the efficiency of holiday item rotation, we can make more use of donated items. Our team successfully sorted the entire Holiday Room according to holiday. Our first holidays to rotate out of the Holiday Room were Halloween and Thanksgiving. We started organizing and boxing Christmas items on schedule according to our time line. We were very successful until the Salvation Army staff began the transition of rotating Halloween and Thanksgiving back into the Holiday Room and Christmas into the Seasonal Selling Floor Room. The boxes that we had organized were now just thrown into the Holiday Room. What was

previously a clean floor space, now has Halloween and Thanksgiving items placed everywhere in a disorderly fashion. In conclusion, we accomplished our team goal of assisting the Salvation Army sell more items and making more money to give back to the community; however, unfortunately, after showing the staff an effective way to efficiently use the Holiday Room, they decided to overlook our possible solution.

The accomplishments we made are still important because, not only did it simply increase sales within the Salvation Army, but it will ultimately help individual people in the community in need. The more items donated that can be organized and put out in the Seasonal Selling Floor Room result in the possibility for more money to be made. Without being able to identify what items should be put out in the Seasonal Selling Floor Room, not only are the donated items not sold but possible revenue could be lost and the items result in wasting valuable space in the Holiday Room. We benefitted the Salvation Army the best way we could for the time we had with the community partner. We gave our time willing to take some stress and work off Ms. Katie, her staff, and assisted the community as a whole in the process. Overall, our team has currently volunteered 88 hours, assisted 21 adults, and drove 268 miles.

PROJECT EXECUTIVE ITEM 2: Leadership Lessons Learned

As a team, we worked well together and progressed daily in our communication and observation skills. Because of these developed skills, our project has become unbelievably successful despite the odds placed before us originally. Our greatest challenge within the project was organizing the items because of the amount of cluttered boxes that were already in the room. All of the different items must be organized in a uniform way, but each team member had their own definition of organization. Sometimes the project became overwhelming! To overcome this

challenge, we decided to leave notes and tags around the room with the organized items and boxes we did for that day. By leaving boxes open, other team members could look inside the boxes to see the content and add more items if necessary.

Many important lessons were learned through this project. Time management, communication, organization, collaboration, preventing procrastination, and maintaining clarity have been an important result of working as a team. Time management ensured that assignments were completed efficiently and effectively according to our set timeline. As freshman students, we struggled with balancing our school work, social lives, and volunteering. Though we didn't always go to the Salvation Army together, we were productive when working on the room. While organizing, good communication allowed for effective instructions to be passed between everyone to accomplish our goal. We had to develop good communication because we needed to relay what tasks had already been completed and still needed to be completed at the next visit. Organization through communication resulted in a successful operation, while collaboration between us made everything run smoothly in the cluttered Holiday Room. Through self-discipline we learned how to prevent procrastination when we didn't always feel like going to serve. We have learned to prepare ahead of time, instead of during the week of, and to open mindedly evaluate our project from other Day One group members' point-of-view. We have tried to create clarity amongst the group throughout the whole project. Maintaining clarity works against unforeseen circumstances that may have appeared in a project and knowing how to handle the situation if it occurred to prevent future misunderstandings. By the end of the project we all learned how to function better and have fun while working together as a team.