



Service Learning Portfolio

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Hour Sheet will be handed in separately.

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Portfolio | Essay

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others” is a quote attributed to the famous Mahatma Gandhi who immersed himself in the fight for Indian Independence. This year was my first year of service as last year I thought that it I would not have the time for service however my friends said it was a great experience so I signed up for the class. Throughout this year, whether it was the Cancer hospital trip, or my project, I’ve grown tremendously, I’ve learnt a lot, I’ve realized a lot about issues I did not know much about, and I’ve appreciated a lot.

At the beginning of the year, I did not know how much I would take away from Service Learning, I just thought that I’d get my 60 hours done and get a passing grade and it would look good on my resume however this class truly taught me a lesson. Throughout this year, I learnt countless new basic skills from fundraising to budgeting to implementation. I never realized that without the great service of leaders like Mother Theresa in India, Imran Khan in Pakistan, and Mrs. Ghabbour in Egypt that people would live a hard life, not have basic health facilities nor live a healthy life. The subject of Service has definitely grown on me and has led me to appreciate the efforts of organizations such as UNICEF, the Red Cross, and countless other charitable organizations. Through this class, I have understood the importance of donors and have started to ponder over problems that are slowly plaguing the poor in our world. The Service Project also teaches an individual several important

decision making skills from how to raise funds, how to approach people for funds, etc.

My service project this year was done in a partnership with Omar El-Sady and Samir El-Sady. We first decided that we wanted to tackle the problem of Shelter in areas that were in need and in particular families who did not have a place to live. The initial plan was for one house to be built that we thought was achievable and slightly ambitious. However, after much consideration and consultation, we decided to proceed with a small housing program helping 9-10 families for either a new house or improvements to their current house. This was highly ambitious but achievable through hard work and determination. We had decided that the project would not be quantity based but quality based so the families we helped had no expenses spared, we gave them what they needed in full and did not leave them needing more aid. We could have built more grey-structures through the funds we had however we did not, instead focusing a few houses in which we also furnished and provided the families with basic necessities. I think that we made a huge difference as providing families with houses is not what people work on everyday but families will use it everyday. These families were on the brink of poverty however we gave them a habitable place to live albeit basic but habitable with basic necessities. These families were extremely grateful of the help we provided and it was a beautiful experience to help these families. I am extremely pleased to have partially funded this project from my own savings, as the rewards of service are much more than the rewards of a new gadget.

Our problem arises from several different issues. Shelter is one that is run by money, and families that don't have money will not be able to get basic shelter. Unemployment, lack of education, and inflation are all different problems that could be linked to our target problem. Lack of awareness is also a huge problem as not many people are aware of the problems plaguing the extremely poor families in Egypt. I hope to continue helping these people as I have a sense of attachment to the area, as it is my first service project. We hope that different companies will sponsor us after our initial success. I would love to see many different homes sponsored by us. My partners and I will definitely explore on how to expand this project so that the spirit does not die and those who need help are given help.

Portfolio | Initial Smart Goal Sheet

Specific: We want to build a house in Abu Seer for a poor family.

Measurable: This goal is measurable as the final result should be a basic house standing.

Achievable: This goal is definitely achievable through proper fundraising and effort. Construction does not take more than 3-4 weeks so it can be achieved in the span of six months.

Realistic: Our goal is realistic as it does not require a lot of time, and does not require a lot of funding.

Timely: We want the house standing by the end of May.

Portfolio | Updated Action Plan

Target Problem: Shelter

Target Group: Group of 9-10 poor families

Project Title: Abu Seer Housing Project

Goals:

- 1) Repair houses that are significantly damaged
- 2) Build basic houses for families who do not have a house
- 3) Provide basic electricity and water supplies
- 4) Provide basic furniture (eg: carpet, basic bed)

Obstacles and Challenges:

- 1) Funds
- 2) Time
- 3) Contractors
- 4) Which Family?
- 5) Amount of Aid?

Tasks:

- 1) Identify 9-10 families selected for aid
- 2) Identify steps to be taken with each family
- 3) Get estimates for total cost of project
- 4) Raise funds with private and corporate sponsor
- 5) Plan and Start Construction
- 6) Give each family their house
- 7) Keep thorough report through out the project for sponsors.

Portfolio | Journals

Journal 1 –

My service project this year was done in a partnership with Omar El-Sady and Samir El-Sady. We first decided that we wanted to tackle the problem of Shelter in areas that were in need and in particular families who did not have a place to live. We also needed a target area and we chose Abu Seer as our target area as Omar and Samir were familiar with families and people in the area due to previous work with the people of Abu Seer. We initially started off with the idea of building one house for one family however after much consideration we realized that we personally had the resources to provide for more and that we could schedule meetings with corporations for further funding so we decided to help a couple of families.

Journal 2 –

In order to initiate our project and conduct some research, we contacted the head of the poor area in Abu Seer in order to receive a list of families who are in need of either new houses or major construction to make the houses habitable. After receiving the initial list, after a couple of ground visits, we came up with a final list. Meeting these people were eye-openers as I they were in serious need and not many people are aware of their problems. Coming across these people made me realize how fortunate I am to live the life I am living as not a lot of people are in the position I am in.

Journal 3 –

Before Spring Break, we met at Sady's house, in order to go over the list of materials needed for construction and prices for each material. We came up with an initial estimate for each house and a project estimate so that we could start raising funds for the project. We personally had pledged a certain amount to the project however we needed corporate sponsors who would be interested in helping these poor families. A PowerPoint presentation was created with pictures and estimates for different companies so that they could understand the true extent of problems with images.

Journal 4 –

Construction finished on weekend of the Egyptian Presidential Election. I personally could not go to the construction site due to security concerns however I was told that the joy of the families who were given these houses was such that it was worth doing this project a thousand times over. I've learnt a lot during this time as I never thought it would be possible to raise the amount of money we raised nor did I think that we could finish all the houses that we finished as I thought it would take a long time. I am grateful to the APG, the corporation that sponsored us with a very generous donation. We raised a bit more than 40,000 L.E for this project and I would very much like to continue helping the families.

Portfolio | Disability Research

Autism is a developmental disorder that appears in the first 3 years of life, and affects the brain's normal development of social and communication skills.

Each case of autism varies, there is no same type of autism.

General Symptoms with autistic people are:

- Have unusual distress when routines are changed
- Perform repeated body movements
- Show unusual attachments to objects
- Develops language slowly or not at all
- Does not adjust gaze to look at objects that others are looking at
- Does not refer to self correctly
- Repeats words or memorized passages, such as commercials
- Is withdrawn
- May not respond to eye contact or smiles, or may avoid eye contact
- Prefers to spend time alone, rather than with others
- Shows a lack of empathy
- Does not startle at loud noises
- Has heightened or low senses of sight, hearing, touch, smell, or taste
- May find normal noises painful and hold hands over ears
- Doesn't imitate the actions of others
- Prefers solitary or ritualistic play
- Shows little pretend or imaginative play
- "Acts up" with intense tantrums
- Gets stuck on a single topic or task
- Has a short attention span
- Has very narrow interests
- Is overactive or very passive
- Shows aggression to others or self

Portfolio | Photos

Before:



After:

