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Wesley Food Pantry Project

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“A with Honors” Project

Every organization needs a start. Why not start within a community with little to no resources? In this paper you will find out a) what Wesley Food Pantry is; b) what were Wesley Food Pantry’s needs; c) the steps taken to accomplish those needs; d) the final product; e) how Wesley Food Pantry matches up with the definition of social work practice; f) how you can view Wesley Food Pantry from both institutional and residual views of social welfare; and g) what the orientation video accomplished, or can accomplish, by being available to the public.

What is Wesley Food Pantry? Wesley Food Pantry is an organization that provides groceries, health, education, and human services to the Champaign community by helping people who don’t have enough to eat obtain enough foodstuffs for a month or months. Wesley Food Pantry is there to help the people of Champaign who are in need of food and other survival supplies who can’t afford them because of the high unemployment and poverty rate. Wesley Food Pantry needs a lot of things, but the one thing they needed the most is an orientation video for volunteers of the community so people can know across Champaign/Urbana how and where to be a volunteer for Wesley Food Pantry.

There are six steps involved in being able to complete a volunteer orientation video for Wesley Food Pantry:

Step one: learn about the organization in order to understand the process of volunteering and what the organization wants and needs in the video. You need to find out how Wesley Food Pantry works and what volunteers need to know and what they need to do to be able to become a volunteer for Wesley Food Pantry.

Step two: you need to create a script for the video with the group of people who is helping you so you can create the orientation video and, if necessary, you can get a script from the organization itself just in case they have a certain way they want the video to be made.

Step three: you need a solid group of people willing to work with you to create the orientation video.

Step four: you need the proper equipment to be able to make the video, starting with the camera and any other equipment necessary for the video.

Step five: you need to find a place where you're going to create the video once everything is organized.

And, finally...

Step six: you need to know where you will upload the video once it's done and get the approval from the organization for the video you and your team have created. The end product was a volunteer video encouraging volunteers to come volunteer and to show and explain to them how Wesley Food Pantry works and what steps are taken and involved in becoming a volunteer for Wesley Food Pantry.

Wesley Food Pantry's efforts match the definition of social work by being an organization helping people in need. Social worker play many roles including an *enabler* who helps people articulate their needs, explore strategies, & develop capacities; a *broker* who links individuals to services; an *activist* who seeks institutional change to meet the needs of the community; and a *coordinator* who pulls together community resources for holistic assistance (Zastrow 2014) . Wesley Food Pantry is an organization whose efforts match all these things plus many more.

Social work practice gives communities hope, and so does Wesley Food Pantry. Wesley Food Pantry helps people articulate needs, explore strategies and find ways to approach these needs. They have developed a successful organization to approach these needs. They changed and improved their location and opened their organization to meet the needs of the community, even when they had nothing to give but an idea and a dream. If Wesley Food Pantry can't help people for some reason, they will direct people to other services that can help them with whatever situation or problem they are facing.

Most importantly, Wesley Food Pantry is an organization that pulls together the Champaign community and its resources for holistic assistance for everyone, not a particular group of people or organization. Social work involves community practice which is just a practice that “stimulates, and assist the local community to evaluate, plan, coordinate efforts to provide for the community needs” (Zastrow 2014). Community practice also involves working with community members, and it is a practice that involves research, formulating goals, planning, & coordination, which all of these can be found in the organization and success of Wesley Food Pantry.

We can analyze Wesley Food Pantry from an institutional view of social welfare because it is an “accepted, proper, and legitimate organization that functions in today’s society that help individuals achieve self-fulfillment” (Zastrow). Volunteers who are planning on entering the field of social work can receive real world experience in to how to work effectively in the profession. Volunteering also gives them experience in working with people in need and how they need to treat people who are struggling.

While looking at Wesley Food Pantry from a residual view of social welfare, we would look at and acknowledge that Wesley Food Pantry is a charity because it is there to help people who are unemployed because certain social institutions have failed them. We can view Wesley as a service that is provided because other major institutions within our society have failed many

of our community members, including children, and because resources are limited.

Communities need help from organizations that can be seen as charities that are willing to work endlessly and use their own money to help people in need: organizations like Wesley Food Pantry.

Every organization needs volunteers and workers to achieve goals and to succeed as an organization. This video will not only help Wesley find volunteers, but it will also give the public a general idea about what Wesley Food Pantry is, how it works, and the purpose of the organization. This video can answer questions about a) where to volunteer, b) how to volunteer, c) what is expected and needed from volunteers, and d) how the volunteer process works.

This video can serve as a “how-to” guide for people looking into volunteering at Wesley and what the community can expect from volunteers and the organization. Wesley has a goal to provide a positive and encouraging environment for volunteers and the community, and our orientation video can accomplish and reinforce this goal. Plus, our project can be considered as a resource for Wesley Food Pantry and its volunteers. Before you volunteer anywhere, the number one thing people want to know is where to go to volunteer and how the volunteer orientation process works, and this video will answer those questions plus many more.

References

Zastrow, Charles (2014). Introduction to Social Work and Social Welfare: Empowering People (11th ed.). Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole.