UServeUtah Youth Council

2020 Final Report

Kate Homer / Holland Welch / Jenna Campbell / Camilla Yuan / Elspeth Rayback
Nicholas Galloway / Luke Stancil / Ava Ford / Ally Brotherson / Karlee Thomas
Susana Elizabeth Lemus Franco / Katie McGuire
The UServeUtah Youth Council is a youth-driven advisory board comprised of several passionate and driven youth ages 16-22 from across the State of Utah. This final report contains some of their detailed individual project reflections. Each Youth Council member has put in significant work over the past year to improve their communities, and UServeUtah thanks them for their service and looks forward to their continued leadership and engagement in the community.
I noticed that a lot of environmental problems were caused by people just throwing old clothes away. These clothes would just end up in landfills for thousands of years. Making new clothing has an environmental toll as well and so my project was to address that need as well as other needs that related. Clothing that was being thrown out could be donated to people in need or recycled to help support the environment, as well as clothes could also be sold to second hand shops and the money could be donated to charities. While I was working on this project the pandemic occurred so I decided to extend my project to recycle fabric into masks.

There were several roles that volunteers had during my project. The first was a promoter, these people would post flyers around on social media and encourage others to do the same. The other was a collector, this was someone who had a collection box at their house. Then there was a sorter, who helped sort the clothing after it was collected. I also had someone design the flyers, and help me drop off donations and such. Volunteers held multiple roles.

**Project Dates:** 7/10/20 – 8/15/20  
**Number of Volunteers:** 10  
**Number of Volunteer age 25 and under:** 8  
**Total Volunteer Hours:** 21

Clothing was donated and diverted from landfills for those in need. I was able to donate clothing to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Utah, my local homeless shelter, as well as thrift stores around my community. My project also helped deal with current needs due to the pandemic. The project was able to supply fabric for masks to help support needs due to COVID-19, by donating used fabric to Stitching Hearts Worldwide. This project ultimately helped the environment by reusing and recycling used textiles so they don’t end up as textile waste in landfills.

Due to the pandemic, I feel as though a lot of my volunteers were looking for something so they could give back to the community. Through my project, they were able to help contribute to COVID relief and their community. It was important to them to find a way to help when the world was in need and they couldn’t personally do much about it.

I did not do a formal volunteer feedback survey, but I talked to people who volunteered for my project and they felt good about volunteering. They also said they would want to have more opportunities like this to serve.
This project was selected due to its availability and because it fulfilled a community need. The community need was for a local children’s library in Vineyard, Utah. Vineyard is an extremely new and developing community, which is why there are no local libraries in the city. The mayor of Vineyard contacted the Vineyard City Youth Council to set up a children’s library from many donated books. The steps my volunteers and I have taken to set up the library thus far are sorting adult books from children’s books, sorting both adult and children’s books into genre categories, holding a book sale for the adult books, cleaning the space the books are held, and cataloging the children books into a chosen software. The steps we have to complete before March are taping barcodes into the books, cleaning the space, finishing assembling furniture, and scheduling volunteer librarians (city youth council members). There will be over four thousand books in the library.

**Project Date: 8/01/2020 – present.** The anticipated opening of the library is the first week of March, 2021.
**Number of Volunteers: 41**
**Number of Volunteer age 25 and under: 23**
**Total Volunteer Hours: 435**
The volunteers were used to sort the books, set up a book sale, paint a mural, clean the space, transport the books, and catalog the books into chosen software. Youth volunteers participated in all of these steps. Older volunteers primarily worked to sort and catalog the books.

While the project is not finished, it will soon fulfill the need for a local children’s library. Since over half of Vineyard’s inhabitants are twelve and younger, the library will help to foster young minds. It will be within walking distance from a sizable portion of Vineyard households, which improves its accessibility.

The Vineyard City Youth Council, which were my youth volunteers, has now begun to deeply impact the community. Prior to this project, the youth council was not involved in any major service projects. The council would only help in city-run events, such as the annual Easter egg hunt and 5K. However, being involved in my project has forced them to show initiative, problem-solving skills, patience, and diligence. Additionally, the library has inspired them to continue handling service projects and to further aid Vineyard in more impactful ways.
With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic this spring, one of the most impacted groups have been the older generations, especially in assisted living centers and other facilities. Because the residents at these facilities tend to be very high risk, visitors have been restricted. This has led to extreme loneliness in many residents. For my project, I wanted to bring generations together while helping to alleviate this need. Teenagers have also struggled with the pandemic, and by connecting with senior citizens, we can help each other during this difficult year. My project involved finding creative ways to serve the residents at our local assisted living center. It was often difficult because of the precautions put in place for the safety of the residents, but despite these challenges, we were able to sing.

Project Date 12/16/2020
Number of Volunteers: 12
Number of Volunteer age 25 and under: 11
Total Volunteer Hours: 32

The majority of the volunteers in my project sacrificed an hour out of an extremely busy week to meet at the local assisted living to sing carols to the residents there. My volunteers mainly consisted of seniors from Ridgeline High School, including members of the chamber choir and student council. I also connected with a senior at my high school that worked at the facility, and she generously offered to help me connect with the director of the center and aided me in organizing the project.
After the project, I heard from multiple sources how thrilled the residents were to have a group of youth singing to them. Normally, they have carolers nearly every day during the Christmas season, but due to the current circumstances and the precautions for their safety, we were one of the only caroling groups this year. During the hour we spent singing to various groups in the facility, their smiles were contagious as they were ecstatic to be able to see and listen to us, even if it was from a distance. Our efforts to spread some Christmas cheer during this challenging holiday season boosted the spirits of the residents, who haven’t been able to see many people outside of other residents and the employees of the facility for months.

This year has been difficult for many people, and teenagers are no exception. Many of the volunteers in this project are currently high school seniors and our long-anticipated senior year has been impacted in many unimaginable ways. Many students have struggled as school dances, activities, sports, and student life have been cancelled or drastically changed. It was extremely beneficial for the youth to serve the residents of our local assisted living center, as it gave them an opportunity to look outside of themselves and providing a way for generations to help each other through this unique holiday season. All volunteers enjoyed the project immensely and many have since reached out to me with a request to come back more often, even if we need to continue to stand outside of the doors to visit with the residents.
Our goal was to donate masks and hand sanitizer to the community, for those in need of masks and hand sanitizer in rise of the COVID-19 pandemic. We were able to acquire the money by applying for a grant from CAST-USA. Using the 800-dollar grant, we bought boxes of hand sanitizer and masks from the Ocean Mart in Roy, Utah. Luckily, after hearing what we were doing, they donated an extra 200 dollars’ worth of masks. After this, we contacted the Cache Valley Family Place as well as the Logan Food Pantry and Logan Refugee Center to donate these necessities.

Project Dates: 8/17/20-9/5/20
Number of Volunteers: 11
Number of Volunteers age 25 and under: 10
Total Volunteer Hours: 40

We had 11 volunteers in total. The majority of moved boxes of hand sanitizer and masks from the school, to the car, then to the Family Place as well as the Logan Food Pantry and the Logan Refugee Center. Along with that, my mother took pictures of us as we were delivering these hand sanitizer and masks.

We were able to drop off around 1000 dollars’ worth of masks to those in need of supplies amidst the pandemic. By donating it to the Cache Valley Family Place as well as the Logan Food Pantry, we were able to help our community and workers have the safety resources they need to prevent the spread of COVID.

I hope that other volunteers felt like they were able to help the community in some way. A feeling of happiness and good, knowing that they were able to help our city is what I hope they felt. Along with that, I felt that our communication definitely improved. Talking to certified officials and each other helped our communication grow.
This school year has been very difficult for everyone with its constant changes. Our teachers have been working so hard to make this year work out for everyone at my school, both those who have chosen to stay online and those who are attending in-person. Teachers don’t often get thanked, and I wanted them to know how much we appreciate their hard work for us, especially during these unprecedented times.

**Project Dates: 12/12/2020-12/17/2020**  
**Number of Volunteers: 15**  
**Number of Volunteers age 25 and under: 12**  
**Total Volunteer Hours: 22**

Because it wasn’t safe to get together, I asked students to email or text me a nice message they had for a teacher. I then printed off this message and glued in a card. Some students chose to write to more than one teacher, others only wrote to one. This project simply helped remind our teachers how important they are and how much we appreciate their hard work. I hope they all felt a little bit of love.

I think this little project reminded people that there are a lot of people struggling right now. Of course, our medical professionals on the front lines deserve some love, and those who are suffering from loss of family members and so on. But even your neighbor down the street could use a note of encouragement. You don’t have to do some giant act of service to change the world. Even the tiniest spark can light up one person’s life, and that is enough.
Learning outcomes:
1. Students will develop civic literacy and capacity to become community engaged learners who act in mutually beneficial ways with their communities.
2. Students will be directed to on campus and community resources that will support their basic needs and foster success at the institution.
3. Students cultivate a sense of belonging through interpersonal connection with other students, faculty and staff through community-based experiences and approaches. The PACE (Partnership for Accessing College Education) program at Salt Lake Community College has incorporated community engagement in their program. By working with the Thayne Center for Service and Learning, I began working to give an introductory in civic engagement. With this project, students will be introduced to 3 community organizations, and see the impact that they can make.

Project Dates: 11/5/2020-11/06/2020
Number of Volunteers: 25
Number of Volunteers age 25 and under: 20
Total Volunteer Hours: 350

What was originally planned as an in-person event, had to be formatted to online due to the pandemic. Due to the sudden changes the original projects with Best Friends Animal Society (outdoor cat shelters), and The Road Home (hygiene kits) had to be postponed. The first thing that we had the students do was familiarize themselves with the concept of reciprocity led by Rebecca Van Maren (Thayne Center, SLCC). This was a good introduction to our first speaker, Stephanie Rokich, (United Way Salt Lake). They had presented on some of their programs such as collective impact, and gave these students an idea of what a nonprofit organization does. The students were then put into groups to begin brainstorming an advocacy project. This was a project where the students could choose an issue area / topic that was important to them, and come up with an action plan on how they could spread awareness (Led by Sam Collins & Deeqa Hamid, PACE Staff). Most of the second day was used to help the students develop their plans. Presentation from Voterize (Hope Zitting-Goeckeritz) on the
importance of community in the democratic process. Presentation from Volunteers of America We had then led the discussion towards Stanford’s Pathways of Public Service and Civic Engagement. Once the students had taken the assessment, Sam Collins led a discussion on how students could utilize this information for future community involvement.

Impact:
The purpose was to expose high school seniors to civic engagement. Throughout the Civic Engagement Camp, we showed multiple different ways for students to be involved. We hope to see this engagement continue as they further their education, and live in their communities. Belonging to civic groups expanded participants’ social networks, and makes them more aware of opportunities to be active in their community. Engaging in civic groups can also help develop a sense of purpose and develop new skills.

Final Reflection (Nick, Deeqa)
Project Volunteer Hours: 10 hours per person, around 1 hour outside of the camp (20 students) = ~220
Planning Committee: ~30 hours (Josh, Deeqa) = ~ 60
PACE Staff: ~10 hours (Mario O., Monica J, Monica R.) = ~30
Speakers: (Thayne Center, United Way, Voterize, Volunteers of America, SLCC) = ~5 hours

Community Partners:
United Way of Salt Lake - Stephanie Rokich
Voterize - Hope Zitting-Goeckeritz
Volunteers of America - Savannah Young
Thayne Center - Rebecca Van Maren, Samantha Collins
Planning Committee: Josh Salas, Deequa Hamid, Samantha Collins, Nicholas Galloway, Monica Gomez Roger-son
PACE Staff / Coordinators: Monica Gomez Rogerson, Mario Organista, Monica Salas Jimenez
Because of COVID-19, my school’s prom was cancelled. There is also a huge rift in our country due to race. I decided to throw my school a prom that was acceptable under the guidelines at the time, and use the proceeds to donate to the Innocence Project and the Equal Justice Initiative.

**Project dates:** 05/20-06/13/20  
**Number of Volunteers:** 11  
**Number of Volunteers age 25 and under:** 6  
**Total Number Volunteer Hours:** 100  

Volunteers helped set up and take down at the venue. Also, I was “donated” the venue for the night. Volunteers also helped me distribute tickets and helped ensure we were following COVID-19 guidelines. In addition, volunteers helped me plan the dance and spread the word.

We raised around $100 for our charities, but also we gave a very special and memorable experience to my senior class. I think this project really encouraged the volunteers because the two months before the dance were some of the most depressing in our lives.

I got insanely positive feedback. Everyone was simply thrilled afterwards (I keep getting texts about it) that we got to have this experience.
My original plan was to organize and host a free summer enrichment camp for children whose families were utilizing the summer lunch program at McPolin Elementary School in Park City. However, the COVID-19 pandemic required that plan to change. My alternative idea was to collect items such as toiletries, toys, and masks for these families and create summer care packages.

**Project Dates: 06/08/2020-07/22/2020**  
**Number of Volunteers: 10**  
**Number of Volunteers age 25 and under: 5**  
**Total Volunteer Hours: 46**

I picked up donations from my church congregation (Park City Community Church). I received over 690 donated items! I then asked volunteers from my National Charity League chapter (Summit County) to help with the care packages’ assembly. Then, my parents helped me to deliver the packages to McPolin Elementary School. The school had an employee who distributed the care packages to the families when they arrived to pick up their breakfast or lunch.

Many families in the Park City community lack essential items, and that understandably exemplified during a time of economic crisis. I hope that this eased the financial burden for these families, even if only slightly.
I was able to connect more with my church community, despite the challenge of being quarantined. Additionally, this provided a volunteer opportunity for younger members of my National Charity League chapter who were limited with their hands-on volunteering opportunity during the lockdown.

The employee from McPolin Elementary School and the assistant principal informed me that the recipients of the care packages were extremely appreciative.
My project was selected to help recognize and increase volunteers. My project is a monthly article called, Give and Grow, where I interview a different volunteer each month to spotlight in our local newspaper. I select people who are currently doing things to help our community and try to get others involved by bringing awareness to organizations that have needs.

**Project Dates: August 2020 – Present**

**Number of Volunteers: 10**

**Number of Volunteers age 25 and under: 1**

**Total Volunteer Hours: 40**

Volunteers helped find pictures for my article as well as find information each month to write a informative article. I have helped bring awareness to the current volunteer needs in my county. I have had people stop me and thank me for writing an article that has had an impact on our community. I have hopefully encouraged people to get involved and show the benefits of volunteering.
My project was to compile videos from youth around the community to send to the nursing homes. The elderly in the community had been expressing feelings of loneliness due to their inability to receive visitors, so I wanted to send in some music to bring some happiness. I selected this project because music is a passion of mine and I knew many youth who would be willing to share their talents. Unfortunately, I no longer have the full compilation, so my attachment is only my addition to the compilation.

**Project Dates: Approximately 08/01/2020-09/01/2020**  
**Number of Volunteers: 20**  
**Number of Volunteers age 25 and under: 20**  
**Total Volunteer Hours: 14**

They each submitted a video of themselves performing a musical piece or dance number so be used in a compilation. Many of them learned completely new pieces or dances specifically for this service project. The staff at the nursing home expressed their appreciation for the video, and have asked me to continue making more!

Many of my volunteers expressed the impact of having a reason to practice their talents while there was nowhere else they could perform. They were grateful for the opportunity to share their skills and improve upon them as well!

A couple volunteers thought that this was a wonderful idea and that I did execute it well, and they want to work with me to continue finding youth with talents to share and give them a place to share it while our world is shut down.
I chose to select my project because it was very close to heart. I helped the migrant youth in my local community of Kearns. There are countless students who are academically challenged with the language barrier when they migrate to the United States. Students often face self-esteem and motivation issues. This creates academic and social barriers that can carry into secondary education. I myself went through and continue to grow and learn from the adversity that immigration brings. I contacted and reached out to local elementary schools and middle schools to find youth and families in need of the help. My goal was to help the students and families academically and in any way I could to make moving and adapting process minimally overwhelming. I hoped to help first in the core subjects, and help them branch out to find new opportunities in after school clubs, teams, and events. In addition, the students were asked to teach the parents the same things they were learning through an ESL program that I put together with the family center at my school. This would help the students become comfortable in asking questions, branching out, communicating, and with most of them being first generation students; this would help them start on their path on being the first in their families to learn new information and bring the knowledge into their homes.

**Project Dates: 08/26/2020-Present**
**Number of Volunteers: 15**
**Number of Volunteers age 25 and under: 12**
**Total Volunteer Hours: 85**

The volunteers and their family would spend time with the created curriculum practicing and would report their academic progress. The curriculum would also help measure the progress. The students played an educator role in their families, older students would also check in with younger ones in their schools to create a sense of leadership and partnership among the students.

The project helped the migrant youth and family adapt to the new society and education that they were facing. There are countless worries and struggles that the families face with the process of immigration, above all, I wished to reassure the families that help was simply a question and call away. This helped the students and families have more peace and assurance they had made the right choice in moving here to find greater opportunities. Many of the volunteers were very discouraged when I first contacted them, many were below proficient in the core subjects and not involved in any extracurricular activities. To this day I continue to help the students and families and intend to continue. At this point in time all the students and families have a more positive outlook at their education and potential. Of the students who are able to join extracurricular programs and clubs. All have chosen to do so.
I was inspired to create the Park City Student Service Award when I attended my sister’s graduation from Park City High School and noticed that students were recognized for their academic and sporting achievements, but not for the volunteer work they do. My passion for community service began when I travelled to South Africa and Nicaragua, where I experienced the true meaning of poverty. Since then, I have been devoted to giving my time back into those who are less fortunate. I have been doing volunteer work for the past six years with National Charity League Summit County, Inc. (a chapter of the oldest mother-daughter service organization in the United States). I have worked shoulder-to-shoulder with many students and have seen first-hand the amazing volunteer work of young people within our community. Park City Students have been making an impact in our community and throughout the world for many years through the volunteering they do. The Student Service Award allows students the chance to be rewarded for their efforts. The Park City Student Service Award aims to honor Park City School District students in grades 6-12 who are committed to making a difference by volunteering their time to non-profit organizations in Park City and elsewhere. This award is not attached to grades or participation in clubs - it is purely a volunteer service acknowledgement. Award certificates are given to students grades 9-12 who meet the criteria of 50+ hours of community service over 12 months. Certificates are given to grades 6-7 who meet the criteria of 30+ hours of community service over 12 months. Seniors who meet the criteria and have completed 200+ hours of community service over their high school career earn an honor cord for graduation. The top senior honoree receives $1,000 to donate to the nonprofit organization of his/her choice. I am grateful for the assistance I have been given by Dr. Jill Gildea, Roger Arbabi, Caleb Fine, and Abby McNulty of the PC Education Foundation, in creating the Park City Student Service Award.

Project Dates: 8/1/2019-present
Number of Volunteers: 37
Number of Volunteers age 25 and under: 31
Total Volunteers Hours: 177

Throughout my project, I established a board that assisted me. The board includes Dr. Jill Gildea, Park City Superintendent; Roger Arbabi, Park City High School principal; and Abby McNulty, Park City Education Foundation Executive Director. This board volunteered their time and assisted me in creating and maintaining the Student Service Award. The awardees volunteered with various organizations. Each volunteer spent a minimum of 50 hours with those organizations. Their efforts and time are greatly appreciated. 3,000+ hours were volunteered through the Park City Student Service Award this past year.

The Park City Student Service Award has sparked a renewal of volunteer work within the Park City School District community. The SSA has and will continue to encourage kids to volunteer and make a difference within the community. I believe that there is always a need to give back. Often times, we take most everything for granted. Through volunteering, one is able to truly see their fortune. I am hopeful that with the Student Service Award in place, students will continue to expand their hearts, and give back to their community.
The volunteer spirit is not for everyone, but for those who connect with it, it is life changing. The act of giving back is a beautiful thing. I believe that all awardees were able to see this during the time they dedicated to volunteering this past year. It has been an honor to support students in giving back to our community. I am pleased with the outcome of the award, and am excited to see it expand. My goal is that the impact on students will grow greater and greater in the years to come.

Every student that I spoke with was very grateful for the opportunity to be recognized for their volunteer work. One specific student (the winner of the 2020 Student Service Award), Caroline Powell, stated the following - “My mom was the one that pushed me to find a nonprofit to work for in the summer in the first place, because my older sister had done it and she had some cool experiences. After doing research I decided to work for Recycle Utah, because I’ve always loved the environment. And living in Park City you see how important the environment is to us.” Caroline was able to learn about the processes of recycling and also helped the nonprofit throw fundraisers and events. Caroline also described that, “Working at Recycle Utah taught me to listen and open up to people. It also helped me recognize the times that I should step back and gauge what is important in my life. That will help me in future as I find a career that would adhere to my morals.” The Park City Student Award was recognized in the Park Record, our local newspaper; KPCW, our local radio station; and throughout all district websites. The Park Record Article can be seen here: https://www.parkrecord.com/entertainment/park-city-school-district-students-earn-the-inaugural-park-city-service-award/
2020 Youth Council

Cindy Aguilar, University of Utah
Yana Andersen, Utah Valley University
Ally Brotherson, Snow College
Jenna Campbell, Ridgeline High School
Ava Ford, Park City High School
Maria Fregoso, Weber State
Nicholas Galloway, Salt Lake Community College
Brynlie Green, Westminster
Davis Herrera, Brigham Young University
Kate Homer, Hillcrest High School
Liz Homes, Weber State
Laveitiana Ika, Bountiful High School
Joslyn Solorzano Galan, BYU
Bethany Kruse, Utah State University
Susana Lemus, Kearns High School
Katie McGuire, Park City High School
Elspeth Rayback, Brighton High School
Aubree Robinson, South Sevier High School
Jorge Sanchez, Dixie State University
Jada Shipley, Valley High School
Luke Stencil, Karl G Maeser Prep Academy
David Stump, Salt Lake Community College
Karlee Thomas, Richfield High School
Holland Welch, Utah County Academy of Sciences
Camie Yuan, Logan High School