



Utah Commission on Service & Volunteerism

Youth Council Final Report

2021 - 2022



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The UServeUtah Youth Council is a youth-driven advisory board composed of young Utahns from across the state dedicated to fostering community engagement among Utah youth. The 2021-2022 Youth Council was comprised of 16 high school and college students ages 16 - 24. They had the opportunity to collaborate with and learn from each other, develop leadership skills, and gain an in-depth understanding of the Community Engagement Pathways.

From St. George to Smithfield, council members made a difference in their local communities. They planned and executed community engagement projects involving youth volunteers. Not only did these activities promote youth volunteerism, but they also addressed global and local community issues. Council members completed a needs assessment, logic model, and final report of their projects, which will help influence UServeUtah's youth volunteerism initiatives.

UServeUtah is pleased to publish a final report containing the 2021-2022 Youth Council Member's individual project reflections. We commend them for their service and look forward to their continued leadership and engagement in the community.

From September 2021
through July 2022

336

volunteers were engaged
in youth-led community
projects

274

volunteers were age 25 and
younger

1,549.5

total volunteer hours were
served

927

hours were served by
UServeUtah Youth Council
members

ADVOCATING FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Andrew Taylor Anderson | Pleasant Grove High School

Negative mental health is one of the greatest challenges and obstacles that nearly everyone faces every day in our modern world. In a changing world, we need to address mental health more than ever now as responsibilities are passed down from generation to generation. I'm inheriting these new responsibilities too. I also experience negative mental health and I know firsthand how difficult living with negative mental health is. And so do many members of our local communities. I wanted to provide a resource that people can turn to to find some solace and help to understand how to better cope with their conditions. I sympathize with these strong willed individuals that make an effort to wake up every day, make an effort to put on a smile for their clients, and begin work as if nothing is troubling them. I commemorate these people. Everybody deserves the right to be happy and I want to give back to these people.



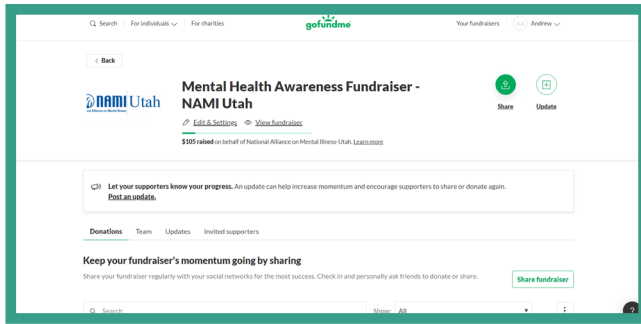
Looking back on this initiative, I realized something. From the hardest hearted students to the most vigilant, I realized that everyone has a place for mental health in their hearts if they want to admit it or not. Not just the people who are more aware of mental health. Everybody.

-Andrew Anderson



I wanted to promote a free, easily accessible, and reliable mental health resource that people can turn to if they ever need it. That's when I was introduced to NAMI Utah; the National Alliance on Mental Illness, a mental health organization providing just what I believe was needed for my project and people. I visited NAMI Utah's website and realized the size of the network of information that was available for anyone. NAMI Utah provides affordable, if not, free mental

health resources that anyone can access; ranging from interactive courses to readings that may help individuals cope with their mental health trials and ongoing tribulations. And I wanted to support NAMI's mission. So with the help of my peers, a representative of my city, and the people of my city, I created a fundraiser to support NAMI in their mission to make mental health resources available and accessible for anybody.



VOLUNTEERS

I approached several school clubs and club presidents I was affiliated with and presented my project to each of the club's members. All I asked of them was to send the GoFundMe link to two or three other people outside of the club and promote the fundraiser over social media. And to my knowledge, they were all on board and promoting. I also approached my city's community relations representative, Cyd LeMone. With Ms. LeMone's assistance, we were able to promote my fundraiser on a city wide level.

IMPACT

The original fundraiser campaign was a success; money was raised for the NAMI organization and my youth peers were engaged in my project as well. But that's not all. Lying in bed a few weeks ago, I had a realization. Yes, I had fulfilled my goal of raising money for NAMI to assist them in their mission to bring free mental health resources to everyone, but I realized I also indirectly brought a mental health resource to the residents of my city. With Ms. LeMone's assistance, we promoted my fundraiser on the city's Facebook. Ten thousand plus followers. Ten thousand people could unlock their phones and see my fundraiser and NAMI's resources. What began as a mission to collect funds for a mental health organization had blossomed into delivering a mental health resource at ten thousand people's fingertips. In a sense, I was collecting sunflowers and unknowingly planting seeds at the same time. All raised funds have been donated to NAMI Utah to help continue to develop mental health resources and operations and further research of mental health conditions for those affected and their loved ones of the affected.

Looking back on this initiative, I realized something. From the hardest hearted students to the most vigilant, I realized that everyone has a place for mental health in their hearts if they want to admit it or not. Not just the people who are more aware of mental health. Everybody. In regards to other impacts, this project has impacted me very deeply. I have aspirations of continuing my project post youth council term and continuing to help these wonderful people whenever and wherever I can.

170
volunteers

167
volunteers age
25 & under

92
personal hours
served

92
total volunteer
hours

FINDING LOVE FOR LEARNING

Jessalyn Bates | Brigham Young University - Idaho

The need I saw was a lack of passion for learning. Because of this lack, a lot of young people waste their time and potential. There is a gap between personal passions and education that I hope to bridge. My project helps to get young teens and tweens to find a love of learning, and through this love, motivation to replace time-wasting behaviors with productive and proactive ones.



The students I presented to all left my presentation with a set of goals: Something to stop doing, something to start doing, and a game plan to start changing that habit. This was all tied into something they were actually passionate, motivated, and excited about.

-Jessalyn Bates



I wrote a curriculum/program and had it beta tested. I will be teaching this program at a Juvenile Secure Care Facility starting this August. I hope to expand this program to more facilities and eventually to school groups. I also put together a presentation and worksheet condensing a section of the program. I presented this to 7 different classes of jr high and high school students.

VOLUNTEERS

One youth volunteer is leading a beta test group of 6 junior high aged youth through the program. Another young volunteer is designing a website to host the program and the leadership training for the program. Another volunteer is

beta testing the program individually. The three adult volunteers helped me get in contact and meet with the board at the Secure Care Facility. More people are working at the facility to get funding for the books required in the program and to get the program accredited for the students. Two teachers at a junior high helped me get the presentations in their classrooms.

I received a lot of feedback from my beta testers about how to condense, edit, and improve the curriculum. I also received feedback from the teachers from the schools I presented at. Feedback on how to better explain my worksheets and also on how to connect with the students.

IMPACT

The students I presented to all left my presentation with a set of goals: Something to stop doing, something to start doing, and a game plan to start changing that habit. This was all tied into something they were actually passionate, motivated, and excited about. The beta test group of 6, they are still going through the curriculum. Still, they have already read two long books, done fun activities based on those stories, and filled out worksheets about the principles the book teaches, as well as worksheets helping them find a passion for learning and techniques.

I loved presenting at the schools. At the beginning of the presentation, we discussed their feelings toward their education. Most of them reported feeling demotivated and like “they would never use this stuff in real life.” By the end of the presentation, they were excited about learning/doing something with their education. A great example is of one boy in one of the jr high classes. He started out distracted and distracting, not really paying attention. When I started handing out and explaining the worksheets, he actually filled them out. His set of goals was to stop playing Fortnite on weekdays, start organizing sports days with his friends and start by calling the local rec center to see when they would be available. I also have seen the impact of leadership on the youth volunteer leading the beta-test group. He has learned to lead discussions, take charge of a sometimes rowdy group of his peers, and also gain a greater passion for reading.



12

volunteers

4

volunteers age
25 & under

49

personal hours
served

40

hours served
by volunteers

89

total volunteer
hours

FIGHTING FOOD INSECURITY

Sojung Bok | SUCCESS Academy DSU

Hunger in southern Utah has always been a problem, but it has been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic that has caused a lot of people to lose jobs and have less access to food. Currently, there are about 47,640 people, along with 1 out of every 4 children, in southern Utah that face food insecurity; additionally, 29,940 of the 47,640 people that face food insecurity reside in Washington County (this is about 63%). The project I planned was a community-wide flea market. This project was designed to help people facing food insecurity get some more access to food by having all proceeds from this project go to the Utah Food Bank's Southern Distribution Center. Additionally, this project was designed to inform a wider group of people (the Washington County community) about this problem of food insecurity within the community.



Through this project, I was able to raise money to donate to the Utah Food Bank's Southern Distribution Center. This donation helped the Utah Food Bank provide more support and access to food to people within the community that needed it.

-Sojung Bok



My project was a community-wide car trunk flea market. People could register to come as "vendors" and sell items that they didn't need anymore out of their car trunks. Other people could then come to purchase these items, and all the proceeds went to the Utah Food Bank's Southern Distribution Center.

VOLUNTEERS

Some of my volunteers helped to promote my event by putting up posters in schools and other public locations (like the library and the community center), and also by spreading the word to their friends, family, and neighbors. They also helped to recruit more volunteers to help at the event. Some of my volunteers were teachers that came to the event as advisors to supervise,



since my event was held on school grounds. Most of my volunteers helped out during the event. They helped “vendors” (people who had come to sell their items) find their assigned spaces, helped with setting up and cleaning up the event, and otherwise helped with other small tasks that needed to be done on the day of the event.

Most of my volunteers (especially the ones that helped on the day of the event) said that they really enjoyed volunteering at the event, and they expressed a willingness to volunteer again in the future.

IMPACT

Through this project, I was able to raise money to donate to the Utah Food Bank’s Southern Distribution Center. This donation helped the Utah Food Bank provide more support and access to food to people within the community that needed it. Additionally, the people that came to the event, including the volunteers, were made more aware of the issue of food insecurity in the community so that they could be motivated to further contribute to the cause in the future.

I had a couple of volunteers that were more reluctant to come help out at the event, but by the end of the event, they were having a lot of fun and they said that they wanted to volunteer again in the future.

14

volunteers

10

volunteers age
25 & under

52

personal hours
served

73

hours served
by volunteers

125

total volunteer
hours

FOSTER CARE BIRTHDAY BASKETS

Kaylynn Dawes | Sky View High School

Foster Children often are unstable because they are removed from their home for various reasons. It is often very challenging because they often don't have a secure home environment. In hopes of making them feel special on their birthday, we are making birthday baskets. I donated the baskets to Little Lambs who will then get them to foster kids. I hope that I can touch the lives of foster kids and hopefully make them feel that they are important, especially on their birthday.



Often in the foster care system, kids do not have the same experiences as other kids, such as the love and surrounding of family, especially on their birthday. They do not have the same experiences especially on their birthday. In response, I made birthday baskets for kids ages 3-17.

-Kaylynn Dawes



VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers were used to tie the blankets and put the baskets together. They help me shop for the supplies and promote the project.

IMPACT

I made 11 birthday baskets. Each basket included cake mix, frosting, candles, a book, a blanket, a toy, and bubbles. I raised \$310 as well as book donation.

I worked with the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America Chapter (FCCLA) Advisor. When they heard what I was doing they came and learned more about the project, and helped me. They are going to start doing this service project as their yearly service project for the Chapter.



12

volunteers

7

volunteers age
25 & under



38

personal hours
served



31.5

hours served
by volunteers

69.5

total volunteer
hours

TRANSITIONING FROM HOMELESSNESS TO HOUSING

Eliza Durham | Skyline High School

Homelessness is a big issue in Salt Lake City. Many people who transition from living in a homeless shelter to housing or housing programs have very limited financial resources. Many of them show up in their new home with nothing but basic clothes and hygiene items. Homes require a lot of basic items, and the prices can rack up very quickly. Especially for people with limited transportation and financial resources, providing these basic needs can go a long way and set people up for success. So, for my project, I raised money to put together move-in kits for these people that are transitioning into housing. These kits will include all the basics that a new home needs, such as towels, detergent, brooms, toilet paper, etc. I will put together 10 kits and donate them to the Road Home and other shelters in Salt Lake.



After helping with my project, many of the volunteers were exposed to new ways of thinking and paying attention to helping people be successful even after they get out of homelessness.

-Eliza Durham



My project was raising money for, assembling, and dropping off move-in kits for individuals transitioning from homelessness into housing in SLC. These kits included all the essentials that a home may need such as basics for a kitchen and bathroom. I set up a gofundme in February with a goal to put together 10 kits at \$150.00 each- a \$1500.00 goal overall. I created a social media flyer and posted it to my personal account and reached out to many friends to post it as well.

I also posted a flyer in my high school's service club classroom and talked to the teacher about offering service hour credits in return for donations. I also reached out to my church youth group and received many in-kind donations from leaders. After my fundraising goal was met, I budgeted and purchased all the items for 10 kits, sticking to the \$150.00 per kit price. I used youth volunteers to then assemble and drop off the kits at homeless shelters in Salt Lake City.



VOLUNTEERS

The volunteers in my project were used to pick up and drop off in-kind donations, post flyers, assemble kits, write letters of encouragement, help budget and shop for supplies, and drop off completed kits.

IMPACT

This project impacted the people that received these kits by taking a financial burden off of these people that transitioned from homelessness to housing. By taking off the burden that purchasing these home items would have on the individuals' financial resources and time, we helped to set them up for success in their new home. These kits will allow them to be successful and transition permanently to housing.

A big impact on my volunteers was a realization and new understanding of more specific problems that arise when dealing with homelessness. When many of my volunteers thought of homelessness before helping with my project, the needs and problems they would think to address would be more obvious, such as providing food, clothes, and money to homeless shelters. After helping with my project, many of the volunteers were exposed to new ways of thinking and paying attention to helping people be successful even after they get out of homelessness.

11

volunteers

8

volunteers age
25 & under

25

personal hours
served

20

hours served
by volunteers

45

total volunteer
hours

INSPIRING STUDENTS TO EXPLORE STEM

Logan Garr | Brigham Young University

Students in elementary schools are not learning enough about advanced topics that might lead to career interests and pursuits. Because they cannot see the long-term effects of early interest in neuroscience and STEM, many of these students don't feel the motivation to succeed and actively participate in STEM classes in their schooling. For this project, I organized a neuroscience fair with Boys and Girls Club at Timpanogos Elementary. For this, we organized 5 presentations that the kids rotated through. At the end, everyone came together for a fun jeopardy game to review the topics they learned. Our goal was to teach kids more about neuroscience and inspire future ambitions and career interests in STEM.



My project introduced the kids to facts about the brain they probably didn't know before. I also introduced them to careers in neuroscience, which will hopefully inspire some of the students to pursue a related career.

-Logan Garr



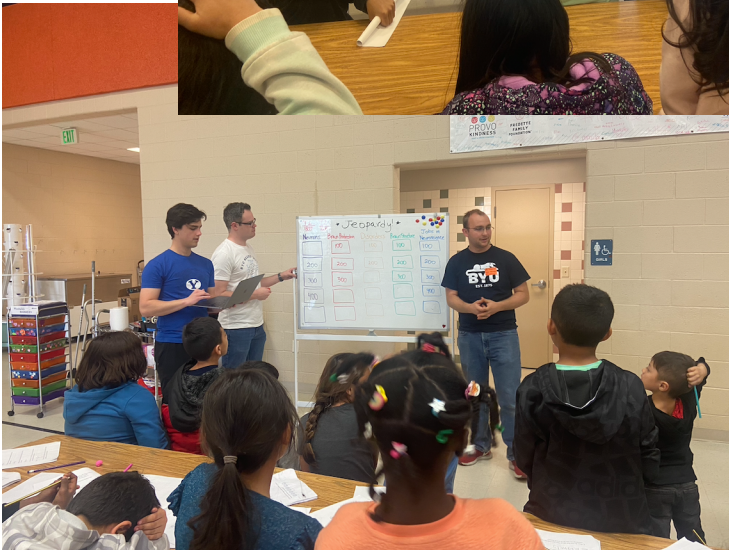
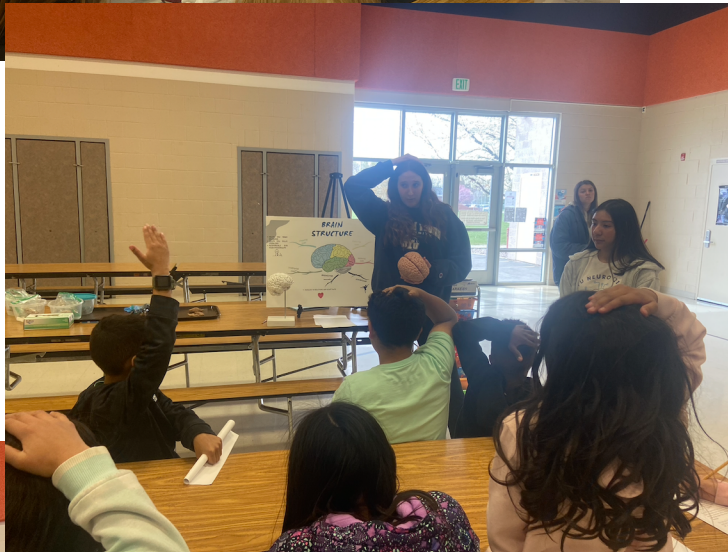
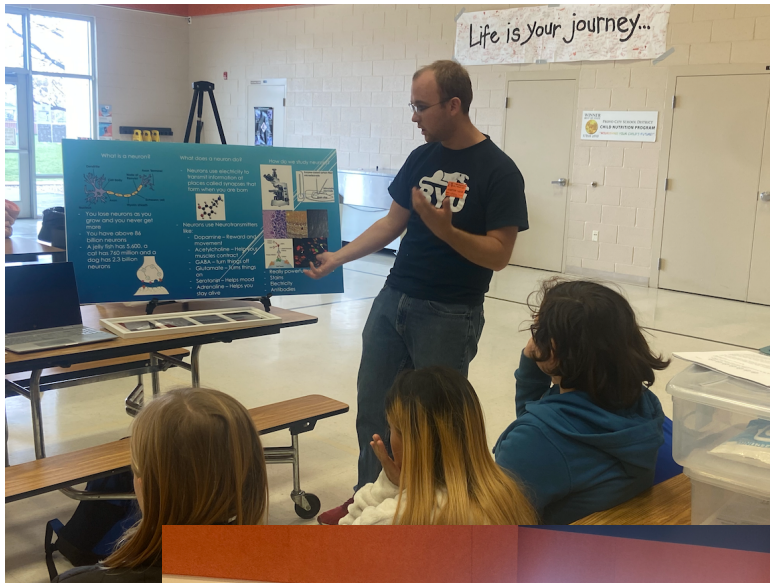
VOLUNTEERS

Each of our volunteers prepared and directed a small presentation on a neuroscience topic. We also had a volunteer who took photos for the project and led the students to each station.

IMPACT

My project introduced the kids to facts about the brain they probably didn't know before. I also introduced them to careers in neuroscience, which will hopefully inspire some of the students to pursue a related career. Lastly, we emphasized that research and careers in neuroscience are very attainable for people who are committed. Many of the kids we taught come from disadvantaged backgrounds, so we are hoping to inspire these kids to do hard things and try their absolute best in school.

Because we combined volunteers from Boys and Girls Club and BYU Neuro Outreach, each group learned about what the other does. This way, these volunteers have more opportunities to serve in the future. The volunteers also loved this project and hope to implement it as a future model.



7
volunteers

7
volunteers age
25 & under

40
personal hours
served

27
hours served
by volunteers

67
total volunteer
hours

SUPPORTING UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

Dominik Jamrich | Park City High School

There is a massive amount of displaced persons that are/were impacted by the Russia-Ukraine conflict. As of right now, there are 10+ million refugees from Ukraine - such a large number of refugees inevitably creates humanitarian issues; scarcity and lack of access to lifesaving necessities have been compounded by such a large number of refugees and destruction caused by the conflict. As a first-generation Slovakian-American, my cultural identity is partially rooted in that area (where the conflict is occurring) and so it gave increased sentimental value to the destruction and suffering there. A fundraiser specifically was chosen because, as a result of the distance between Park City and Ukraine, it would be very difficult to physically contribute to the cause. Thus, by contributing to an organization dedicated to serving and caring for the people of Ukraine (the Utah Ukrainian Association or UUA), we could effectively be supporting those displaced and suffering in Ukraine and provide them with the vital necessities they so desperately need.



By raising \$1,034.69 for the UUA, we have greatly improved their ability to aid those struggling as a result of the Ukraine-Russia conflict.

-Dominik Jamrich



VOLUNTEERS

The volunteers in my project participated as musicians. Many of the volunteers whose help I enlisted were a part of a band and donated their time by playing at my event. The volunteers who were aged 25 and under were part of the Utah Conservatory Show Bands program and donated their time as well.

IMPACT

The project helped address the need by donating valuable funds to the UUA which they will use to finance overseas efforts to improve the livelihoods of refugees through various means. By raising \$1,034.69 for the UUA, we have greatly improved their ability to aid those struggling as a result of the Ukraine-Russia conflict. Moreover, by having a speaker, Sergii Zabigailo, whom



we graciously thank, inform the audience of the horrors occurring in Ukraine, as well as the cultural/political history of Ukraine, the audience's knowledge, awareness, and solidarity with those harmed by the conflict heightened, leading to greater efforts to aid the people of the area.

The volunteers were all able to play for our audience (I have a great appreciation for the bands that we're able to come and play!) and learned much about the Ukrainian conflict and the atrocities occurring there. As a result of the event, for many volunteers, new light was shed on the conditions in Ukraine and spurred them to either donate or take action in their own lives.



SUPPORTING MULTILINGUAL STUDENTS

Lacy Linares | Grantsville High School

At elementary schools in my district there are two or three multilingual students in each grade, and as a resource there are one to two multilingual specialists in each building. With limited resources and an increasing multilingual population the district struggles to provide instructional time and support. Multilingual students receive about an hour or two, if they are lucky, of school time where the student actually has a full understanding of what is happening in class. This means that reading and comprehension are extremely difficult and they are receiving excellent, specialized help, but for short spurts of time and any extra help will aid these kids in having a more positive educational experience. As an after effect of COVID 19 reading and comprehension skills have dropped across the board. Both of these issues just need more individualized attention and can be fixed with the same solutions.



This project allowed for high school students to become more aware of cultural differences in our community, and for elementary students to be given much needed attention and individualized learning resources.

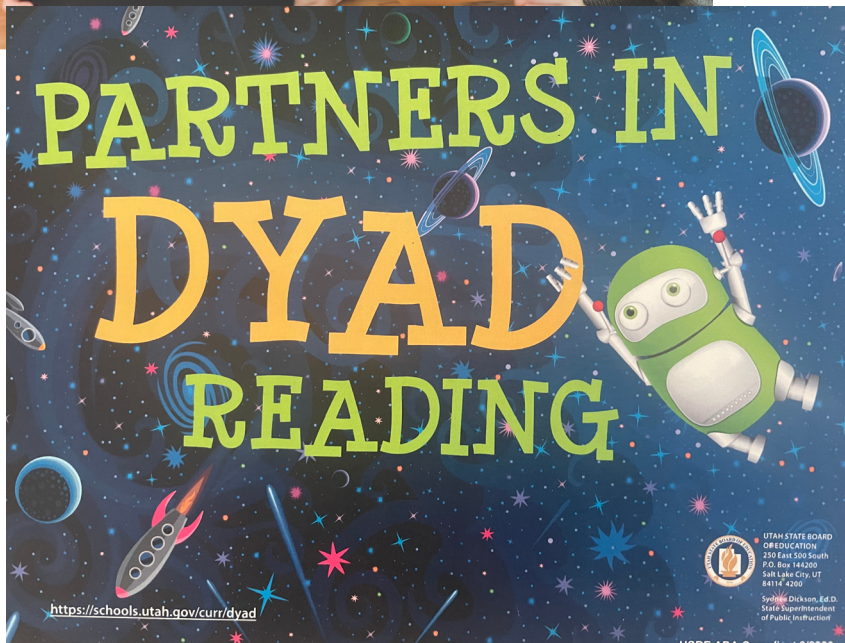
-Lacy Linares



VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers were trained in Dyad Reading, to better help the elementary students progress and understand and develop more English proficiency. Each volunteer would spend an hour at the elementary and split that time into thirty minute increments with each child. This allowed them to help elementary students to practice, reading, comprehension, and communication, while documenting the students progress for teachers and aids.

One of the volunteers determined her course major for this upcoming fall after her experience tutoring. She is going to major in Early Education and her experience tutoring helped her decide that helping young students find success for themselves is something she is good at and wants to further explore as she goes to college this fall.



IMPACT

This project addressed the need of below grade level and multi-lingual elementary students to increase individualized attention. This allows for specialized attention and more time spent on what the student needs to build foundational learning skills.

This project allowed for high school students to become more aware of cultural differences in our community, and for elementary students to be given much need attention and individualized learning resources. This allowed for volunteers to develop skills, and tutoring experience. This develops soft skills such as patience, communication, and to give explicit instructions. One of the volunteers who was hesitant at first really came to enjoy the time spent tutoring and helping children in our community.

9

volunteers

5

volunteers age
25 & under

15

personal hours
served

8

hours served
by volunteers

23

total volunteer
hours

SUPPORTING REFUGEES

Candace Park | Weber State University

With the precautions still in place due to the Covid-19 pandemic, my initial project, at this time, was not something I could execute. Although initially discouraged, I found another need just as pressing as the other. This year, we talked about combining the heart and the head to produce hustle. The jumpstart of my new project is accredited to my heart, but it desperately needed a check with my head. With millions of Ukrainian citizens fleeing to neighboring countries and millions more remaining in the country but displaced from their homes, I longed to be a part of the fight. At this point my heart outweighed my head, and I quickly realized I just had to start somewhere. I then found Utah Valley Refugees, or Utah Community & Refugee Partnership Center (UCRPC), located in Provo, Utah. Its mission is “to assist refugees in their quest to become self-reliant.” Stepping out of my comfort zone into a pathway different from my own, I searched for donations of the items the center needed.



The items we worked to get donated will be going to families who will appreciate and use them. My hope is that our children’s kits will make children feel like they have friends here and people who care about them as an individual.

-Candace Park



I began calling numerous businesses asking for non-monetary donations such as soaps, toothbrushes, and other items the center needed. My end goal was to have goods donated and hold a couple of meetings with my volunteers to get them involved. I had soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, floss, and new stuffed animals donated at the end of my project. Even writing this report, the items does not seem like a whole

lot. I then think about the number of phone calls I made with numerous businesses, unfortunately not in the position to donate, and what I came up with seems like a miracle. Although I knew the hygiene items would find their spot just fine, I was really proud of the twenty new TY stuffed animals donated and was unsure if they were good on their own. Inspired by a late friend, I wanted to create kits for children. He said it



would mean more to them than we would ever know, with him once on the receiving end in a similar situation. With this idea in mind and the memory of my late cousin, I decided to add pieces of artwork to the children's hygiene kits. We made twenty kits with the help of my volunteers, each including a stuffed animal, 2 bars of soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, floss, and a unique card made by a volunteer. I then brought the extra items and the children's kits to the Utah Valley Refugees Center in Provo for donation.

VOLUNTEERS

My volunteers helped to create the artwork displayed in the children's hygiene kits as well as put these kits together. I did also have a couple of the volunteers take the donations down with me to Provo.

IMPACT

Utah Valley Refugees is a nonprofit organization who relies on the community's donations of both time and goods to assist our new neighbors. The items we worked to get donated will be going to families who will appreciate and use them. My hope is that our children's kits will make children feel like they have friends here and people who care about them as an individual. Because I pursued a project on a different pathway, I believe it's difficult for me to thoroughly understand the impact I have made, but above all, I know it to be a positive one.

It was in this area I saw the biggest impact. I had a couple of young volunteers who seemed surprisingly engaged in the back story of this project. Their curiosity was inspiring and ignited conversation about other service opportunities. It was as if everything had come full circle. In our Youth Council meetings, they encouraged us to involve the younger population in our projects, and I now fully understood why. If we lead by example, some are certain to follow.

9

volunteers

6

volunteers age
25 & under

64

personal hours
served

19

hours served
by volunteers

83

total volunteer
hours

DEEP ROOTS: STORIES OF THE WAR

Michael Popa II | Utah State University

For 20 years, the United States was intimately involved in a war against terror in Afghanistan. But, for the up and coming generation of college students, the events of September 11, 2001 and those immediately thereafter are but faint memories, if memories at all. The entirety of this war has been witnessed through the TV screen and news headlines, and much of the region this war took place in has been misunderstood and misrepresented. To give students and the community alike a chance to get a more complete understanding of the War in Afghanistan, USU Student Media and USUSA presented Deep Roots: Stories from the War. A night of storytelling, speakers ranged from military personnel deployed to Afghanistan, including United States Army MAJ Sorensen and CPT Dickson, to local experts, including professor of political science Austin Knuppe, Ph.D., and to Afghan refugees, including Angie's owner Saboor Sahely and Marwa Niazi. This evening of stories and experiences provided a complete and well-rounded set of perspectives that showed what really went on in Afghanistan.



What was originally meant to be a small project that helped the community and checked off all of the obligatory requirements for the project turned into something much more profound that helped me grow as a community member in ways I didn't know I could! My project invigorated senses and feelings about my community and particular niches thereof that showed me what community truly is and what my role as an individual is to support my neighbors, peers and teachers, employees and employers, and friends!

-Michael Popa II



VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers encompassed those participating as speakers, sound and technical staff, organizational advisors, marketing producers, and USU Student Media staff.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed their experience and felt as though they learned a lot, not just technically as it pertains to the skills they used during event production, but particularly about the War in Afghanistan and its effect on those involved.



IMPACT

The powerful stories shared by the speakers cultivated significant understanding beyond what has been relayed by news media regarding the War in Afghanistan and its impact on those of varying involvement. Individuals impressed by these speakers and their stories were encouraged to 1) volunteer with local refugee organizations, 2) read and investigate the news they consume more intimately and sincerely, and 3) critically think about and consider all perspectives of a given issue instead of falling into complacency.

USU Student Media advisors said that this event (combined with the business of USUSA generally towards the end of the school year) pushed the organization and its staff to a new level and integrated multiple elements of USU Student Media together as not seen before. USU Student Media is currently trying to see what securing a TedX license would entail, and is using this event as a springboard to begin hosting similar events again in the future.



FUNDRAISING TO **SAVE THEM ALL**

Anna Romero | Bingham High School

My project was a fundraiser for Best Friends Animal Society. I decided to do this project because of the lack of money after the Covid outbreak. I knew nonprofits, specifically pet shelters, needed volunteers and donations to stay afloat, so I wanted to help. I considered what would be the most practical and beneficial considering the recent COVID outbreak that happened at the beginning of the project. I decided it would be best to host a fundraiser that would help address the lack of money for Best Friends.



After COVID shut almost everything down and people couldn't go about their usual routines or even participate in extracurriculars like volunteering, they were happy to create an impact where it mattered.

-Anna Romero



VOLUNTEERS

I had three volunteers who helped share the fundraiser with as many people as they could. My first volunteer was Sarah Dorsey. I reached out to her for assistance in advertising my project on social media. I sent her the flyer for my project, which she helped post on various social media sites such as Instagram and Facebook. My other two volunteers were friends of mine, Sarah Bobowski, Raeden Semadeni, and Megan Allen. They helped reach out to friends and family for donations.

IMPACT

The project's goal was to ultimately raise funds to address the lack of money for non-profits and pet shelters after the COVID-19 virus. In the end, this project reached a total of \$1,185 in donations which went directly to Best Friends Animal Society. Things like food, shelter, toys, and medicine were going to be purchased with the money and provide animals with the care needed to have the best possible chance at a better life.



HELP ANIMALS DONATE TODAY!



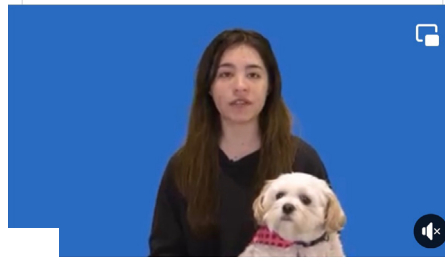
Best Friends Animal Society of Utah is committed to bring about a time when there are No More Homeless Pets. They do this by helping end the killing in America's animal shelters through building community programs and partnerships all across the nation. By working together we can Save Them All.

Its easy to help!
Scan the QR code to donate, please **help us raise \$500** by the end of March!



Spread the Love!

http://support.bestfriends.org/goto/Anna_UServeUtah



👍 18

1 Comment Seen by 92



Theresa Lopez
Great job Anna your goal is almost there !!!

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👍👍👍 Liked by izrslc and 21 others

slccmr This UServeUtah Youth Ambassador is running a fundraiser to help Best Friends Animal Shelter ❤️ with the help of... more

4

volunteers

3

volunteers age
25 & under

56

personal hours
served

3

hours served
by volunteers

59

total volunteer
hours

When reaching out to my volunteers, I noticed they were very excited to help. I was surprised by their enthusiasm and willingness to assist me with advertising. After COVID shut almost everything down and people couldn't go about their usual routines or even participate in extracurriculars like volunteering, they were happy to create an impact where it mattered.

POWER OF ART

Lillian Scott | Grand County High School

Children in Grand County have lost purpose/motivation, basic art skills, and experience shortened attention spans due to Covid-19 quarantines and stretches of homeschooling. Their need to be exposed to art - and the ability to create - provided an opportunity to teach the kids how to use art as a form of self-expression and give them a social outing during which they could be creative and have fun!



A lot of the kids showed up shy, but as soon as they sat down and started working on their art, there were smiles all around the room. Everyone there had a friend to sit with, whether it was another kid or a volunteer.

-Lillian Scott



Volunteers arrived the Moab Arts and Recreation Center at 9 a.m., March 26th. They set up supplies, tables/chairs, and got the Art Party ready to go! When the artists (30+ kids) started arriving at 10 a.m., the volunteers made sure the kids were welcomed, got their name tags, and started on their pieces (kids were asked to arrive with an idea in mind). As the day progressed, volunteers were challenged with meltdowns, spilled supplies, and providing guidance on art pieces - and they did great! Everything ran smoothly and anything that cropped up was solved quickly. Thanks to the volunteers' cheery attitudes and welcoming countenances, kids had no problems asking for help finding supplies or if they were stumped on their pieces. By 1 p.m., all

of the art was finished (56 pieces!) and ready to be put on display. Kids left with smiles on their faces and volunteers helped clean up and prep the Power of Art show.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers were used to set up and organize the Art Party, provide support and help for the artists, clean up afterwards, and prep for the Power of Art youth show.

IMPACT

A lot of the kids showed up shy, but as soon as they sat down and started working on their art, there were smiles all around the room. Everyone there had a friend to sit with, whether it was

POWER OF ART

MOAB YOUTH ART SHOW



another kid or a volunteer. When parents came to pick up their kids, they were grabbed by the hand and dragged to see where their kid had their piece drying or set aside to be put up later. All the kids left seeming proud of themselves and what they had produced - even one girl who had water spilled on her piece. At the art show later that day, we had some tourists wander in and appreciate the art, as well as most of the kids coming back with their family. Everyone was impressed with the art! I had a lot of kids and parents tell me they'd love to see this project done again next year and that it was a great creative opportunity to participate in.

Volunteers had fun and some even made art of their own! Most of them expressed interest in participating in this event again next year, if it happens - especially those who were parents and saw the effect this all had on their kids.

19

volunteers

12

volunteers age
25 & under

55

personal hours
served

77

hours served
by volunteers

132

total volunteer
hours

CORNHOLE FOR A CAUSE

Jonah Settle | Juab High School

The Children's Justice Center serving my county recently split from Utah County's Center, and is lacking in facilities and resources. After additional budget cuts from federal grants, the director started a Friends of the CJC Board to fundraise and increase the Center's self-sufficiency. I joined the Friends Board in its inaugural year and put on multiple projects. The one I chose to do in conjunction with UServeUtah was a charity cornhole tournament; the Juab and Millard County Children's Justice Center's first fundraiser ever.



I grew to love my community more as I worked to make it better, especially for the most vulnerable members.

-Jonah Settle



I hosted a charity cornhole tournament to raise money and awareness for the Children's Justice Center. As a member of the Friends Board I met monthly with community members and the CJC director, held drives for in-kind donations, and researched tax requirements to register the Board as an official nonprofit.

VOLUNTEERS

I recruited members of my high school National Honor Society to volunteer. I used the three high schoolers that came to sell concessions, which my parents had bought and donated to the event. My mother was the fourth volunteer, as she helped me plan and donated her time to buy the concessions and the change. Other people came to help out, but instead participated in the tournament or sponsored kids at the park to play in the tournament. These aren't included in the volunteer count.

IMPACT

My fundraiser was primarily a stop-gap measure to supplement the reduced budget of the Children's Justice Center. In that regard it was mildly successful. I raised \$420 in team registration and concessions during the tournament. However, as a part of the Friends Board since last summer, I helped the Board achieve nonprofit status, reviewed and ratified bylaws of the organization, and organized other drivers for in-kind donations that the Center required for comfort packages for clients. The items I collected went



to help kids who had just done something pretty traumatic in testifying before a government agent as part of the judicial process. This impact is difficult to quantify, especially considering the cases of the Center are completely confidential. The biggest impact I was involved in was starting the nonprofit Friends Board, which now allows for more fundraisers and donation drives in an official capacity (my projects were technically done in my own name).

My project wasn't focused on volunteer effort or direct service, as much as on the philanthropy and policy and governance pathways. The high-schoolers that volunteered worked for a very limited number of hours, and these were NHS kids who worked on service projects frequently, so this particular project had little effect on them. One impact that could fit under this category is that we did raise awareness for the center with this activity, as it was advertised in both counties that the center serves. I saw the biggest psychological change in myself as I worked with adults that I respected in the community on the Friends Board. I admired their sacrifice of time for a good cause and tried to emulate that. I grew to love my community more as I worked to make it better, especially for the most vulnerable members.

4

volunteers

3

volunteers age
25 & under

32

personal hours
served

15

hours served
by volunteers

47

total volunteer
hours

COMMUNITY UNITY

Tyler Skeen | West High School

I chose this project because I spend a lot of time downtown, (I go to West High after all) and this area is a space that thousands of people go to for their job, for their personal wants, or whatever else they need. This city is a shared space for everyone. After COVID I noticed that littering had increased, not necessarily in city creek, but in areas that aren't as tourist-focused. Because of this issue, I decided to have a day where we as a city could pick up trash. These benefits are on the surface, a cleaner city, and less trash and glass in the environment, but also a benefit for those that participated. This project was also to make people conscious of what they throw away and educate them on what is recycling and what is trash.



[There are] benefits are on the surface, a cleaner city, and less trash and glass in the environment, but also a benefit for those that participated. This project was also to make people conscious of what they throw away and educate them on what is recycling and what is trash.

-Tyler Skeen



The project was a clean up day that was focused on downtown Salt Lake. The way we accomplished this was by taking the free-fare zone on the trax system. We all started at the arena stadium and split into three groups of three (one was a group of two). This group had bags for trash, plastic bins for glass and sharp metal, and a bag for recycling. After the two hour clean up day I collected all the trash, glass, recycling, etc. and disposed of it in the proper areas.

VOLUNTEERS

I used volunteers on the day of the project. These volunteers were used in groups of three. Within these groups, one volunteer was responsible for the trash and was carrying a trash bag (all participants had vinyl gloves), the second person had another yard waste trash bag that was specifically for recycling, and the third person had a dustpan with a broom handle (to sweep up glass and sharp objects) and a plastic bucket for glass (and other sharp metals, we had a few jagged pieces). These three people were then sent to a station where they would walk around and pick up trash, and then after they finished they went to another unvisited station.



Community Unity Day

Come to take care of our city! We will be picking up trash and other materials throughout Salt Lake City for two hours.

Arena Station 3:30 - 5:30

Thursday, April, 28th

Fill out this form if you are interested:

<https://forms.office.com/r/gZDRvt2r9e>

Or text me: (801)-855-6195



8

volunteers

7

volunteers age
25 & under

25

personal hours
served

17

hours served
by volunteers

42

total volunteer
hours

IMPACT

This project in total brought in approximately 30 pounds of trash, 16 pounds of recycling, and 6 pounds of glass. This was a lot of trash removed from the environment, and also made the city visually cleaner. This was specifically noticeable in shrubbery and plant life in the city, where trash collects (It's also really depressing seeing plant life marred by plastic and trash).

One obvious thing is that we had a briefing on what is recyclable and what isn't before we actually went out. It was an educational session and people asked about things like pizza boxes, and things like plastic bags. This led to a more educated group of volunteers with the knowledge that is applicable far after this project day. Another impact was a conscious one, the project took place one week after Earth Day, and was meant to be an extended effort of protecting the environment. I believe that the repeated efforts instilled the idea that protecting the environment is not a one-day endeavor.

FORMING INCLUSIVE FRIENDSHIPS

Charles Wilcken Gutierrez | Herriman High School

I ran and organized a basketball team of special needs athletes and neurotypical athletes. I picked this project because I saw that my school wasn't very inclusive to the students with special needs. I thought that this project would be perfect way for neurotypical students and special needs students to form friendships. Our team competed in the Special Olympics Utah's Unified Champion Schools basketball tournaments.. We also competed at Utah's first ever Unified Sports High School Basketball Tournament at Weber State. It was the sponsored by the First Lady's Show Up Initiative and was the largest Special Olympics Utah unified event.



The school has been more accepting of the students with special needs. Also since the basketball team was so successful they were able to start a track team.

-Charles Wilcken Gutierrez



VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers were used in many different roles. We had two coaches, two teachers who volunteered to make a poster and flyers. Then there were the 8 players. The last two volunteers helped me spread the word of the tournaments.

IMPACT

The impact was that the school has been more accepting of the students with special needs. Also since the basketball team was so successful they were able to start a track team. The impact

will continue on for many more years with more basketball teams in more schools. Finally there are already plans for the team to be operational every year.

I felt as if all the participants enjoyed their time on the team and learned many helpful skills. For example I learned to be more patient because it takes longer for the athletes to learn skills but when they eventually figured it out it made all the practicing worth it.



16
volunteers

12
volunteers age
25 & under

47
personal hours
served

168
hours served
by volunteers

215
total volunteer
hours