Pre-Service Mapping

ISSUE / NEED
shelter, hospitality for the homeless

PROJECT
greet and check in guests to the shelter; observe role of gender while volunteering

GOAL
obtain closer ties to Lawrence community

GOAL
learn how gender plays into service role

GOAL
build character thru service

SKILLS
serve food, clean, talk w/ people, check in homeless

SKILLS
observation of differences, interactions, treatment of men

SKILLS
give something of myself and my time back to the community, people of Lawrence, that will definitely humble my attitude

IMPLEMENTATION!
WS 511:  
History of US Women 1870-Present  
Service Learning Final Reflection  
Spring 2005

I spent my semester volunteering at Lawrence Open Shelter, which is a homeless shelter in downtown Lawrence, and out of all the classes I’ve taken, the methods by which the service learning project was completed might be some of the most fulfilling and life-altering coursework I’ve ever done. The lessons I have learned through doing learning such as this are ones that will stay with me throughout my entire life, and the connections between real world social issues and women’s issues throughout history was very interesting to observe throughout the course of a semester.

The goals of the shelter are to improve the public image of homeless persons by providing food and shelter for them in the evenings and all through the night in order to keep them off of the streets and out of the bars. The shelter does not, however, discourage substance abuse issues, since they willingly accept all people who come in to stay for the night, even those who are most definitely under the influence of either drugs or alcohol, if not both. The only rule is that they cannot bring any substances, weapons, or children into the shelter. Sexes must also sleep in separate areas, as well as couples who are together, who must sleep segregated from the rest of the group. In that regard, the real issue at hand was never really addressed through the shelter’s services, but community involvement became evident through the donations, food served, and time given by local church groups, civilians, students, and social workers.

The issues of gender, race, class, etc. were never really addressed, since the group of people who stay there is a well-blended mix of all sorts of people. Race can mix between African Americans, whites, Hispanics, and Native Americans. Most people would assume that the
minorities are the most dominant of the guests, but the more numerous of races are actually Caucassians. Issues between mixed races never really seem to occur, since everyone there is of equal social status. There is little drama that I have noticed between guests of different gender or race, aside from the occasional drunken yelling match between a man and a woman or a man and a man. Women seem to cause the most drama of all, which may or may not come as a surprise. Like I said earlier, genders are separated at night for sleeping situations, and couples have to sleep separated from the rest of the group, just for comfort issues regarding everyone else staying there.

As stated in earlier reflections, Lawrence Open Shelter draws strong comparisons to the Hull House started by Jane Addams in Chicago. The Hull House, which was a community organization designed to help uplift the poor and poverty-stricken portion of the city, worked endlessly to do just that. Community programs, education, and shelter were all provided in order to benefit the majority of the less fortunate race. I think that the two organizations differ greatly in the way that the Hull House provided not only shelter, but programming and education in order to help uplift the population as a whole, whereas Lawrence Open Shelter is only a means of provision for some. No programming to defer them from substance abuse issues is offered, although I’m sure it is discreetly encouraged, no limits are set regarding the use of alcohol prior to entering the shelter, and no educational or vocational training is provided in order to improve their job search opportunities. In retrospect, I think the Hull House was far more effective because it provided so much more than just a community drop in center. Cott states in her writings, “Hull House leader and pacifist Jane Addams, [who] saw her own kinds of social concerns superseded in the 1920s by young people’s emphasis on personal freedom and ‘self-development.’” However, I do find it interesting that such an organization was so radical and
new to the scene back then, and now, homeless shelters and soup kitchens can be found in nearly any city. I think that the Hull House set a very strong precedent for social welfare and social work as we know it today.

I think many of the same issues surrounding equal rights for women back then still are very pertinent today. For instance, labor reform and unemployment are still very relevant to modern society, especially for women. Back during the era of the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire, women were forced to do much of their work, or manual labor, most often in textile factories or domestic settings, since nearly all jobs were sexually segregated. Men took on the roles of doctors, scientists, architects and engineers. Women were left, uneducated and at a strong disadvantage, to do domestic work, service industry centered jobs, and sexually discriminative work. Considering that most of the female population did not receive formal education higher than any sort of grammar or high schooling, any “respectable” job with decent pay was hard to come by. The hours were long and grueling for minimum wage and time away from the families, resulting in a double day work standard. This was true even more so for immigrant women or minorities, whose chance at education was even closer to none than white middle class women. The fight within women’s rights and ERA labor legislation aimed at not only uplifting the female race at the workplace, but at equalizing the theory or work for women nationwide. Cott informs that “sex-based protective legislation was viewed as an anachronism, an artifact of women’s long history of economic dependence, keeping alive in women the self-depreciating ‘psychology of the unpaid worker’ long inculcated by domestic servitude.” Cott emphasizes the barriers that

women had to overcome simply to be recognized in the workplace. It is disheartening to think that many of the same issues exist today, even after all the time and progress that has occurred since then. Now, in modern society, women who do not have access to higher education or who are at a disadvantage due to race, social status, or gender are at the same disadvantage when it comes to finding a job that will sustain a lifestyle for themselves. To think that the meager salaries that most jobs pay uneducated, disadvantaged women would not only provide a fair life for that individual, but also a family, is simply ludicrous. Granted, advantages come from being educated and from being self-propelled, but when the poor or poverty-stricken citizens of this country try to stand on their own two feet, it is not always an option in this country.

My services to the homeless shelter remained nearly constant the entire time I served. The thing that most changed throughout the volunteer period was my comfort level, which definitely became more relaxed and at-home feeling, and the alertness of real social and labor issues with which I volunteered. The guests became not only guests to me, but friends, and friends who I looked forward to visiting with each week at that. It made me feel wonderful to know that the guests there recognized me and knew my name, and happy to know how grateful my service to them made them feel. People would actually come up to me and say, “God bless you,” which is something I think is often overlooked in situations like this. Many times we forget just how grateful we can make someone simply by giving of our time or our services.

My favorite part of the service learning experience was being able to grow as an individual and improve my character. The friends I made there were great, and I loved being able to do

something I would never otherwise have done. The saddest part for me was leaving. Well, at least until next fall, when I definitely plan to keep on volunteering there.

/Glad to hear that.
Works Cited

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What were the goals of the service site where you served? How did the agency develop strategies to address the problems of the populations served? How did the agencies acknowledge the intersection of gender, race, class, and other issues? How did they not address these intersections?</th>
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<td>(possible 45)</td>
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<td>How do those strategies relate to strategies described by various groups in course readings? Similarities or differences? How do you connect modern women's issues to the issues addressed in course readings? (Be sure to describe the specific time periods that you are comparing to modern times.) Your discussions of Hull House and equal rights struggles are well written. You've made good connections between your experiences and issues raised by different historians.</td>
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<td>How did your service change over the course of the semester? What was your favorite part of your service learning experience? Why? What was your least favorite part? Why? I'm glad that you had a good experience and that you will continue volunteering.</td>
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Student's Name:
Beginning this service project, I am a great number of things. I am excited to be able to get out and actually serve others within the Lawrence community, particularly those who are less fortunate than myself, especially since that is something that has been on my mind and heart a lot recently as something that I’ve been wanting to do. I am nervous to be around people that I have never really met, aside from a volunteer coordinator, and to somewhat put myself on the line in a situation where I might not know how to handle certain things. I am anxious to see how the entire ordeal works itself out. I have my expectations of what I think the Lawrence Open Shelter will be like, what kinds of people I might come into contact with, and perhaps what kinds of relationships might occur as a result of my service learning project, but, then again, my expectations could be completely wrong. Either way, I know that this will definitely be an eye-opening experience for me, and a memorable one at that.

I think that this will make me realize how fortunate I am in my own life, but then again, it will break my heart when I realize just how much I take for granted on a daily basis. I think that by doing something like this, by working with homeless men and women of the city of Lawrence, I will maybe break down some common stereotypes or images that may have engrained themselves into my head about what the homeless are like. So often, people may look at them disapprovingly simply because they cannot financially support themselves and have nowhere to live or to make a decent life for themselves. All too often, others are quick to judge.
the reasons behind a homeless man or woman's situation, but maybe by doing a project like this, I can help to erase those images or stereotypes from the minds of myself and those around me.

From studying some of the strongest and most influential women in history, I have learned that great things never come easily. In life, especially when you want to change something or the way things are, it takes risks. It takes putting yourself out on the line, despite any emotional issues one may be facing such as anxiety, nervousness, or anticipation. So many times, the comfort level of great leaders and those who make a difference is sacrificed in order to be noticed. For instance, Ida B. Wells risked everything that she had, including her own life, every time she wrote about the anti-lynching campaigns, but she did it all to make a difference, to get her message across, and to change the way American society was run and perceived.

I think that my background and strong interest in service will help me a great deal during this service learning project. Helping others has always been a passion of mine, more and more so lately, and I think that I am blessed to have been given this opportunity to apply my passions and my moral ideas into the classroom. In so many circumstances, it feels like the scholastic side of my life and the spiritual or moral side of my life are separate. I am excited in more ways than one to have a chance to combine the two, and I am excited to see what kinds of great things can result as a byproduct of the two.

Some connections between my service and what we have discussed or read so far in class can apply as well. As mentioned earlier, Ida B. Wells risked so much of what she had in order to stand up and change the way that Americans, particularly white elitists, viewed African-Americans. Her direct observation and in depth studies of the treatment of blacks led to a widespread revolution during a time that was so racially charged. Service can also be tied to doing what you think is right, regardless of the popular belief of society. For instance, when
stereotypes are made throughout society, it’s up to the individual to break them down and take a stand for what they feel is right, just as the women’s suffragists like Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton did during the Progressive Era. It is also important to remember how Jane Addams created Hull House in Chicago in order to create a somewhat safe haven for those striving for an education or an enriched life, who might not have otherwise received the necessary means of obtaining such goals. I hope to take on this project with such enthusiasm.

good references to the texts
One of the things that I've noticed is that most of the people who live there seem almost helpless. I know that a lot of them become homeless based on bad domestic situations, alcoholism, or substance abuse issues, but every Friday, when I go into volunteer, it seems like it's the same issues that people struggle with every time. It's interesting, yet deeply saddening, how one addiction can spiral out of control to a level so extreme where an individual would become homeless and left to sleep on a mat on the floor of a public drop in center. People will come in drunk and rambling, or drunk and lonely, and they will just seem so sad. Granted, this is not the situation for all the guests who come in, but it's definitely one of the things I've noticed since I started three weeks ago.

The agency itself wants to promote a better public image of the homeless, rather than have the Lawrence community shun them or turn their backs to those in need. Instead of having them loiter on street corners or sleep in dark alleys, giving the public a somewhat bad image, they have provided a shelter where they can come. However, sobriety and substance problems can hinder any progress towards that goal, because the public has already stereotyped homeless people, and by acting out those stereotypes, it's almost a step in the wrong direction. At the shelter, they strongly encourage sobriety and refuse to let anyone in who is in possession of any alcohol, drugs, or weapons. I have overheard talk of AA meetings and employment opportunities, so I think that a lot of them really are trying to turn their life around, but for some, being homeless has become
accepted, and the life they live has completely adapted to the relationships they have built since coming to the shelter.

The agency also makes each volunteer sign a confidentiality statement. I think it’s important to realize that any medical history/records or substance abuse problems or addictions can be sensitive areas to a lot of guests who stay there, and that a lot of them do realize they are in a tough situation with not a lot of options, and feel ashamed. It’s important to respect their feelings in that sense, and to be able to treat them just as you would any other colleague to make those feelings less intense for them. Like I mentioned earlier, the shelter has a policy where they will take anyone in as long as they have room for them, and as long as they aren’t carrying any illegal drugs, alcohol or weapons with them. The safety of the shelter, the guests, and the volunteers is a top priority with them, which I think is great to understand. By having that policy, the guests have become used to the rules and know what they can and cannot do. This, I think, gives them a sense of respect for authority and disengages them from any indifference to the rules. It encourages, them, rather, to feel like they have a safe place to come to where they can be accepted for who they are and know that they will be taken care of that night.

The guests also have what are called “job lists,” where they can perform a chore or a task such as cleaning mats or tables or dishes, and, in return, they are guaranteed a space to sleep the next night. By doing this, I think it gives them a better idea of working for what they earn, and that working, whether it be small or large duties, has its benefits in the end. I don’t, however, want this to seem like all homeless people are jobless. Most of them, actually, DO work, and go to jobs every single day. It’s just that making ends
meet, whether it be from addictions or other financial problems, seems to be a problem for them, and they have nowhere else to go.

I think that the biggest issue in dealing with the homeless is the already placed views that different classes have of them. Since I've started to volunteer there, I can't tell you how many times I've become angry when others talk about them as being lazy and out of a job, completely unwilling to work for what they have, since, as I just stated, most of them actually have jobs. I think that this premeditated idea of them brings society down in a way bigger than I can explain.

In my opinion, our society should be one of compassion and love, willing to reach out and help those that are less fortunate than ourselves, since so many of us are so blessed, but seem to take it all for granted each and every day. I am reminded of the Chinese discrimination in American history, when laborers were shunned simply because they were different from others, and seemed to give the American labor force a completely different face. It seems in history, we, as Americans, are completely incapable of tolerating anyone different than us, but we are so quick to claim to be the land of the free, home of the brave. In truth, we are a land of cowards. We become fearful of those that are different than us, whether is be social class, looks, race, etc. Instead of embracing the fact that we are all different, which we so often vocalize how great it is, we shy away from it when given the chance to accept others. We take pride in our diversity, but are ashamed to accept it. Just as diversity isn't accepted, change is all too often ignored. People find it so hard to break from traditional rules into something new, like women's suffrage. Why weren't women given the right to vote from the start? If our nation was one that claimed equality to all, and promised the pursuit of life, liberty, and happiness,
then why, I wonder, were women feeling so oppressed for so long, unable to represent themselves in elections and seeing enslaved by their husbands and their children in domestic situations? When I read of Alice Paul, I pray that each and every one of us in the class will leave with at least a minor inkling of the compassion she felt in fighting for her cause. If any of us feel the need or desire for change, I pray that we may actively take a part in fighting for that cause, bringing awareness to the situation, and making the world around us KNOW what we stand for. I feel that as a society, we have stood quietly far too long on so many issues, and nothing has changed. I can only hope that each and every one of us in the class become empowered with the knowledge we receive, and strengthened enough to fight for what we believe in, regardless of the situation or the majority of opinion.

Very passionate reflection.

continue to make such observations at your leisure.

Proceed with your connections.

Further with your analyses.
I think that my presence at Lawrence Open Shelter has definitely been a positive experience. Aside from my own personal growth, the humbling experiences that I face each time I go, and the satisfaction when I leave that I've done something to help those less fortunate than me, I hope that I would leave a positive impact on those that I come into contact with while I'm there. The agency's goal is to get the homeless citizens of Lawrence off of the streets and into a safe environment that can provide them with a place to sleep, shower, and eat that evening. Whether or not the increased number of volunteers has anything to do with it or not, the atmosphere every time I've been there has been extremely calm.

That was surprising to me, since I had expected there to be more drunken brawls, shouting arguments, or general unrest. So far, however, none of that has happened, and every person I've met who has stayed there has been very nice and simply interested in conversation with you. I guess I came in expecting something a little more radical, but it has been the exact opposite. It's a very neutral, humbling experience.

Since I've started working here every Friday, I've taken a more conscious approach to the homeless situation not only in the city of Lawrence, but on a national level as well. So many times they are stereotyped as bad people to be around, but I find myself having some of my most enjoyable time of my week spent with them. I am more aware of the aid the government provides in situations like their own, and, what's more important, how any one of us could become homeless by simply missing four paychecks.
A lot of times it’s something we think couldn’t happen to us, but, in reality, it very well could. Things like homeless shelters and food pantries remind me of Jane Addam’s settlement house, where she provided a community center that would account for the overall well being of those living around her. In no way do I think this place is any different. Social welfare workers come and monitor the building who are specifically trained to deal with situations like these, and in the end, the general goal is to better the welfare of everyone involved.

I think one of the main concerns, aside from the general public’s perception of their guests, is generating government funding. I can admit, as well as others, I’m sure, that before I started doing this job, I thought of homeless people as different from me, as maybe having less rights or political say than I did, simply because they lived on the streets. I think it’s important to realize that as a part of equal rights in America, we think of their citizenship as no less than our own, regard them in the same manner when it comes to equal say, and never think of denying them their rights as Americans simply because of their financial status. I think that gender played into American equal rights reform in the early 20th century what financial status and money plays into Lawrence Open Shelter’s policy and goals. I think that suffrage or the women’s right to birth control could be compared to the shelter’s public goal of awareness as the guests as people and the constant strive for government funding to keep a place like Lawrence Open Shelter running. I think that denial of funds for a place like this could, in a way, mimic the way government denied women the right to their bodies, even if that seems like a radical approach or thought process.
I don't really think of this experience as correlating with early 20th century political reform too much, but I think that it could be comparable to Mother Jones and her means to try and organize coal miners to increase wages and form trade unions that would better their overall being in the end. The shelter really has nothing to do with increasing wages, but is concerned rather with increasing a positive state of being for its guests, just as Mother Jones aimed to create better atmospheres for the miners she helped to organize.

The guests in the shelter seem, from casual conversation and general observation, to have had a rough past. They seem to have aged more than the usual male or female, and just seem tired all the time. They are weary from something that I can't name. It reminds me of the moods most women and industrialized workers must have carried when they worked the long hours in factories, in horrible conditions, all for measly figures that could barely scrape into enough to feed themselves and their families. This all changed with the passage of the 48 hour work week, in part to Molly Dewson and Rose Schneiderman, as well as the efforts of Mother Jones and the Women's Trade Union League (WTUL) to better working conditions and wages for everyone involved.
As I wrap up this semester and as I wrap up this service learning project, I am, first, amazed at how fast this project has been completed, and second, pleased with how well it turned out. At first, going into all of this, I was timid and a little scared, not knowing what to expect or what I would take away from doing something like this. I was unsure of what I would see or the way I would feel about doing something like service learning. I didn’t know how comfortable I would feel working around a bunch of homeless strangers, most of whom had a drinking or substance abuse issue.

However, as the term went on, the more and more often I went, the more friends I made there, not just with other volunteers or case workers, but the guests themselves. It was amazing to me how badly most people just wanted someone to talk to. It saddened me to think that so many people, myself included before this experience, just shunned the homeless or turned their heads whenever they would see them on the streets. Employment and financial insecurity are issues that we all know exist, but all too often ignore and pretend that everything is fine without our help. If I were to rate my success at this project, I would base my decision not on how well I did my job, even though I think I did a pretty good job of making the shelter a more enjoyable place to stay, but on how much more aware I became of certain issues like unemployment on an individual level. By using that criteria, I would say this project was very successful for me. It put a whole new perspective on things for me, and made me aware of how easily any one of us could become homeless by missing just four paychecks. It made me a little more slow to judge in situations where I see a homeless person, because it made me realize that it could happen to any
one of us, and that I should never take what I have for granted, as so many people all too often do.

Before starting this service project, I came up with three different learning goals for myself. These were to obtain closer ties to the Lawrence community, to learn how gender plays into the service role, and to build my character through service. It’s funny how all of these goals and so much more were obtained through my service learning project. By volunteering at a place like Lawrence Open Shelter, I felt that I had found a niche, or a place where I felt that my service was highly valued and made a difference. For me, service learning became a great way to reach out and meet people who live in Lawrence, either students or residents, who I would otherwise never have met. I met such a wide range of people from all different kinds of lifestyles, and I had fun while I did it.

It was a bit more difficult to understand gender roles in a place like a homeless shelter, but after close observation, it became more and more evident to me that gender roles most definitely exist. It was interesting how a rough-looking group of people are so much more willing and apt to listen to the instruction of a man, rather than a woman. Granted, the monitor who works there when I volunteer is a woman and she is highly respected, but the instruction of a male monitor or volunteer seems to be taken so much more seriously. I think this all ties into the issue of power, and how power and the male gender have for so long become inseparable. It was also a bit sad to realize that so many of the guests don’t have respect for certain men and women. A lot of times men, or women for that matter, would come in drunk or high and would start a yelling match with another guest who they had gotten into a fight or a disagreement with, and would so easily resort to derogatory name-calling matches. Words and phrases like that which are so easily thrown around make me sad when I think of how no matter how far we’ve
come in trying to equalize gender roles and sexual perspectives, we still have things to overcome, especially when it comes to the issue of respect.

As I’ve mentioned before in all of my reflections, I think my character is continually building more and more every time I go. I think that could apply to anyone in any situation where he or she is thrown into doing something they’ve never done before. Experiencing new things and exploring outside of your comfort zone are a surefire way to build up a person as well as expose them to things they may well never have seen, so in that regard, I would say that I was very successful.

I think that the shelter could improve its effectiveness within the community through a lot of ways. By increasing the number of volunteers at a place like this, they are able to receive more and more government funding to keep the shelter running. For instance, each volunteer could be “written off” as working for minimum wage or more, but it’s all volunteer work, so by packing as many volunteers into the schedule as we can, it makes it easier to receive more government aid to improve the conditions of the shelter. I think that making it more well-known throughout the community would help to keep more homeless off the streets at night. The building itself is unmarked and looks like any standard grey office building. I think that if it were more marked, more people would know it was there and either would retreat there at night or come volunteer their time there. I know that the shelter itself is a place where they won’t turn anyone away if they don’t have to, but I think that if they told guests if they came in drunk or high they wouldn’t be able to stay the night or get a meal, it might help on keeping some of the guests’ substance abuse issues more in line.

To better prepare myself for my next service project, I would like to maybe go through more of a training session or at least attend some meetings that would let me know what exactly
to do in certain sour situations. I was timid when I first began, and still am to a certain degree, on what I would do if someone came in beat up or battered, or if the foul language yelling matches got out of hand, and started to get physical. I know that the monitors are very well trained on how to deal with everything, and so far, everything has been completely calm, but I always have this chip on my shoulder about what I personally would do if violence ever became directed at me. I think that in any situation where service is required, it’s best to know as much about the event, place, or situation as one possibly can. Education is key in order to make an effective difference.

A lot of the guests who stay in the shelter either have wrecked their family life completely because of substance abuse or indifference toward their family members, or have just become somewhat of vagabonds and have traveled all over the country never really settling in one place. This may sound a little extreme, but in some ways I think that homeless shelters can relate to Japanese internment camps during WWII. I think this because it’s a way to kind of combine everyone who we don’t want the public to be offended by or bothered with into one solitary place where they can all co-inhabit together.

As far as marriage goes, most of the people who stay there are either unmarried, divorced, or never talk about their spouses or families. I think it’s hard to tie this portion of reflection back to class readings, since marriage issues can hardly exist when marriage is lacking in a situation. Most of the guests that stay there have either been kicked out of the house for a substance abuse issue or other reasons, but either way, I never see anyone come in as a couple, especially a married one.

Charlotte Perkins Gilman came to mind when I thought about reproduction. After the birth of her first child, she moved away and received the rest cure for her depression. I think that
could be similar to situations such as substance abuse. When an issue like that arises, either the mother or the father leaves, and can become homeless as a result. In the case of Charlotte Perkins Gilman, did she ever actually raise the child, or did she just abandon it for her own well being? I think a lot of times the guests at the shelter that do have children may never really attempt to make contact with their offspring, so I am left to wonder what the family behind that individual is like, where they come from, and if they, in return, ever think about their estranged parents.
Service Learning Time Sheet #1

Student Name: ____________________________

Agency: Lawrence Open Shelter

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TOTAL Hours: 6

Supervisor's signature: ____________________________

Date: March 15, 2005

Great! I just be sure to finish your hours by the end of the semester.
# Service Learning Time Sheet #2

**Student Name:**

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**Agency:** Lawrence Open Shelter

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</table>

**TOTAL Hours**

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<td>10</td>
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**Supervisor’s signature:**

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**Date:** 5/11/05
Service-Learning Contract

This should be of mutual benefit (a win-win) for both the student/volunteer and the sponsoring organization/agency.

**Student/volunteer:**

I will contribute my knowledge of ______ service projects ______ and skills for ______ Lawrence Open Shelter ______ (the organization/ community) to help address its identified problem/ goal of ______ homelessness/image within the community ______ for the benefit of ______ the Lawrence population ______ (groups/populations).

I will contribute at least 15 hours to serving this organization.

I expect to learn about ______ gender roles and how they play into a service environment ______ (knowledge areas).

Signature: ___________________________  Date: __2/17/05__

**Sponsoring organization/agency:** ______ Lawrence ______

The organization/ community will provide supported opportunities for the server to contribute his or her knowledge of ______ service/helping others ______ to help address the organization/ community’s problem/ goal of ______ sheltering the homeless in a safe, comfortable environment ______ for the benefit of ______ the homeless of Lawrence ______ (group/ population).

We expect the student to contribute at least ______ 2 ______ (hours per week) in service to this organization.

Name of Supervisor: ____________________________________________

Contact Email: ________________________________________________

Contact Phone: ________________________________________________

Signature: ___________________________  Date: __2/17/2005__
SUPERVISOR’S RATING OF CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMUNITY
(midterm)
*Turn in with time sheet #1.*

Student’s Name:

Name of the Agency/Service Site: Lawrence Community Shelter (LCS)
Name of the Supervisor:

Please answer the following regarding your student’s service work this semester.

> I am satisfied with the student’s contribution.

strongly disagree 1 2 3 4 5 strongly agree

> S/he has been effective in helping solve problems (achieve goals) in our organization or community.

strongly disagree 1 2 3 4 5 strongly agree

> S/he established meaningful relationships with those in the organization or community.

strongly disagree 1 2 3 4 5 strongly agree

Please make recommendations for improving the student’s service-learning experience in your organization or community.

Attending one or more staff meetings would provide an opportunity to better understand the mission of LCS and how it works.

Would you be interested in hosting a student service-learner again in the future? Explain.

Yes. There is something to be gained by both the student and our guest (Lawrence’s homeless community). Much of what happens between the two groups is an appreciation of both groups’ commonality.

How many hours has this student served with your organization?

Supervisor’s Signature: [Signature]

Date: March 16, 2005
SUPERVISOR'S RATING OF CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMUNITY
(endterm)

*Turn in with time sheet #2.*

Student's Name: 

Name of the Agency/Service Site: Lawrence Open Shelter
Name of the Supervisor:

Please answer the following regarding your student's service work this semester.

- I am satisfied with the student's contribution.
  
<table>
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<tr>
<th>strongly disagree</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>strongly agree</th>
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- S/he has been effective in helping solve problems (achieve goals) in our organization or community.
  
<table>
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<th>2</th>
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- S/he established meaningful relationships with those in the organization or community.
  
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<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>strongly agree</th>
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Please make recommendations for improving the student's service-learning experience in your organization or community.

Much of what we do in terms of service involves direct interactions with our guests. Our guests represent a broad cross section of people who often suffer from one or more addictions or mental illness. Students need more education and understanding of drug and alcohol addiction and various mental illnesses. Would you be interested in hosting a student service-learner again in the future? Explain.

Yes  Both the students and the guests gain so much from their exchanges.

How many hours has this student served with your organization? 16

Supervisor's Signature: 

Date: 05/06/05
Service Learning Workshop

***Bring completed class to workshop on Friday, February 11, 2005.***

NAME: __________

COMMUNITY NEED: shelter/hospitality for less fortunate or homeless citizens of Lawrence in need of a place to stay

PROJECT:

- volunteering for 2 times per week at the Lawrence Open Shelter either welcoming guests, checking them in or during odds and ends jobs around the shelter.

PRE-SERVICE

Learning Objective(s): learning to interact and work with a vast majority of people from all different circumstances and observe how gender plays a role into the center.

Participant Preparation:

- meet with service site and director of volunteers
- to plan meetings/volunteer times/ inquire about more information

Community Partners:

- other volunteers, any sponsor of the shelter
- homeless people of Lawrence, less fortunate of Lawrence

DURING SERVICE

Service Activity(ies): helping with any work that needs to be done welcoming visitors/guests to the shelter and checking them in at night, any odds and ends jobs that require any assistance.

POST-SERVICE

Reflection:

- Such a fulfilling experience, goal met indeed

Evaluation Tool(s):

- Strengthened character
- Service in reflections
LAWRENCE OPEN SHELTER (LOS)

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

Q an A

Why does LOS need volunteers?

The Lawrence Open Shelter could not conduct its programs to serve the homeless without the help of volunteers who donate their time and energy. These individuals come with different skills, alone or as part of a group, once a week or once a year, to work directly with the LOS guests or to help behind the scenes. In addition to completing tasks, volunteers provide a crucial link between LOS and the community in which LOS relies for both program and financial support. Volunteers return to the community with a wealth of information about the need for the shelter. Many people in Lawrence do not know that there is an open shelter, what services it offers, and who depends on it for help. Volunteers often act as witnesses and teachers, dispelling stereotypes that plague homeless people and their service providers.

How does someone become a volunteer at the Lawrence Open Shelter?

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer at LOS may contact the Coordinator, any Monitor, or the Volunteer Coordinator. Sometimes people will call the shelter or arrive at the door wanting or needing to volunteer a number of hours that day. Unfortunately, since they have not been through the orientation to the shelter, they may not immediately be a volunteer. To become a volunteer they must sign the volunteer agreement, know the shelter rules, complete the volunteer orientation, and schedule a training shift.

What types of volunteers are there?

Overnight volunteers normally work from 8:00 pm to 8:00 am, though alternative schedules may be arranged. Overnight volunteers agree to stay awake for part of the night but typically may sleep for four to six hours. An overnight volunteer may bring his or her own bedroll. Duties include set-up, guest sign in, light cleaning, security checks, and other tasks at the Monitor’s request.

Evening general volunteers may work from 8:00 to 10:00 pm or midnight. Evening volunteers are flexible but some may be assigned to just one task, e.g., food set up and clean up, accompanying guests to the outside smoking area.

Evening professional volunteers are doctors, nurses, job counselors, AA, legal, etc. who have agreed to donate their skilled services to the shelter guests in seminars, discussion groups, or one-on-one sessions during the early evening hours.

Guidelines

Respect – at Los, we ask that everyone be treated with respect, including guests, staff, and volunteers. If you notice someone treating anyone disrespectfully, let the Monitor know at once. It is better for this behavior to be corrected in the beginning with a warning than to allow it to become more serious.

Comfort – be aware of your comfort needs. If you feel awkward during an interaction, walk away. There must be a professional relationship between the guest and the volunteer or staff person. Merging a personal relationship with this professional relationship can be confusing and hurtful.