

Theory and Praxis: Fostering the Integration of Learning and Community Service

Dale Fitzgibbons
Alicia Girard
Dan Lehman

Compassion Center

- <http://www.secondpres.info/comp%20center/>

Team Concepts
Connected to the
Experiential Exercise
(Compassion Center)

Connections

- Stages of team development (storming, forming, norming, performing)
- Conflict resolution (inevitable when interdependent)
- Leadership can come from any number of sources (“stepping up”)

- Diversity (not everyone has the same goals or work styles)
- Goal-setting (they decide their goals and the methods to achieve them)
- Commitment (peer-pressure to contribute)
- Communication and feedback (frustration and importance)

- Inter-and intra-team coordination (they can't accomplish their sub-tasks without help from other team members).
- Organizational coordination (they don't have the same goals and timetables as the students)
- Time management (critical if plan is to be executed and goals achieved)

- Planning (impossible to achieve goals without it)
- Organizing (each team was responsible for organizing the sub- task they chose)

Our Objectives/Goals

- Fundraising (\$2,000)
- “Wish List” Drive (4,800 items)
- Volunteer Recruitment (10 volunteers)
- Each team responsible for 1 objective, entire class helped with every task

Tangible Results

- **Funds Raised: \$3,412 (\$2,000)**
- **Items Collected: 6,279 (4,800)**
- **Volunteers Recruited: 27 (10)**

Intangible Results

- **Awareness of a social problem**
- **Empowerment (make a difference)**
- **Challenges of team-building**
- **Complexity of organizational tasks**
- **The rewards of cooperation**
- **Self-efficacy and personal development**
- **Job-related skills**

Volunteer Quotes

“Volunteering made me aware of how serious homelessness is in this town. It made me more appreciative of what I have and made me want to help those in need.”

– Chris Andrioni

Volunteer Quotes

“I had no idea how serious this could be in a town like Bloomington. Learning about how people can become homeless so easily has changed my perspective on them and I will definitely try hard in the future to continue volunteering.”

– Adam Green

