

Sheridan Smith

Dr. Anna Patton

Service Action Plan: Next Steps

05 December 2019

Service Action Plan: Next Steps

The thought of developing a service project actually intimidated me when applying to the Village and signing up for this class. I held critical roles in several service projects throughout high school, but I never led a project on my own. However, finding my true strengths and using the Relational Leadership Model, it essentially became easier to figure out how I could bring what I am passionate about to life. Establishing a service action proposal made me realize even more that my best interests as a leader is dependent on serving others before serving myself.

Through this service action proposal, I found that I had shown strength in inclusion, empowerment, and being process oriented. When I thought about a plan to introduce, I kept thinking of ways I could potentially make all students and faculty on campus feel like they're a part of a community. Especially, those who aren't as fortunate as others. The purpose of my project is to provide clothing, particularly winter items, to students and faculty who may not be able to afford substantial items. I felt that having another ongoing donation center, like the "Feed the Pack" program, would encourage others to serve, while empowering others to feel like they are cared for on campus.

I knew that a lot of things would have to be taken into consideration when wanting to start a new program like this on campus. As stated before, this allowed me to grow strength in being a process-oriented leader. When talking to others about my project, they asked a lot of

questions and it made me realize that it would require a lot to even begin the project. I began to think of ways to start the process, and the first thing that came to mind was to talk to those who are already doing a project like this on campus. It was suggested to talk to both the “Feed the Pack” program directors and the Career and Development Center about their business professional closet that is open to all students on campus. I should meet with them to ask questions on how they started and how they keep the centers open. Doing that would help provide the next steps to implement this project in the spring and continually throughout the future.

Before I meet with both centers, I have considered already how I will get this program started and where I could receive the help. I believe the Village could help me with their opinions on ways to virtually make the project the “perfect plan”. I have found that working with diversity helps groups to progress and improve in any situation. Listening to everyone’s perspectives and different ideas will help me figure out what will be the best foot to put forward. I know for a fact that I will need the assistance from others to really make this project happen. As a leader, I have found that I work best with others to get the job done versus directing others to do the job for me.

While thinking about how I could implement this project in the spring, I noticed how my strengths have been showing throughout the entire process. According to the Clifton Strengths Assessment, my top five strengths are: restorative, responsibility, harmony, arranger, and futuristic. I saw how being restorative really helped me figure out an issue that I am passionate about and ways to “fix” it. I was able to identify a community issue and develop a plan to help combat it. Being responsible gave me the discipline to ensure that this project can be

implemented in the spring. I would hate to see this idea go to waste. By giving myself the responsibility to get it done, I know it will happen. This project will need a lot of input and action from others to get started. Being a harmonizer will ensure that this project starts smoothly. Implementing harmony into my leadership style will help everyone stay on the same page and bring inclusivity to the group who wants to help. Being an arranger aligns with being a process-oriented leader, which has helped me go through the steps to get this project proposed and started. Lastly, by having the strength of being futuristic, it has reminded me of the end goal for this project. I want to help those who don't have the same privileges as I do, and by thinking of how this project could potentially help them encouraged me to keep going.

Overall, developing this service action proposal has given me ways to implement my strengths and strengthen my relational leadership skills. My leadership philosophy from the beginning was that a good leader is one who teaches and motivates others to become leaders. I believe this proposal in way aligns to that philosophy. I would technically be the leader of this project, but I wouldn't consider myself to be because I would position myself to work with others to get it started and running. This project has allowed me to want to become the leader than serves and does things for others, rather than one who does it for their own good.