

Student Philanthropy Program • 2011 – 2012 Final Report

1) Your Name: Daniel Martin **School:** Notre Dame Academy

2) How was the program implemented in your school and *how* were students selected?

The program was implemented this year through our Interact Club. Interact is a service club at Notre Dame Academy that is completing its second year. It is also affiliated with the Rotary Club of Kenton County Kentucky. Interact is open to students in grades 9-12. Our club is growing and the Student Philanthropy was one of our signature projects for the year.

3) Student Participants (numbers by grade level): 9th: 1 10th: 5 11th: 3 12th: 4

4) If you have participated in past year(s), what major changes (if any) did you make this year?

I was not an employee at Notre Dame when the program was in place in previous years. I know we re-started the program after a hiatus of at least two years. I think the biggest difference from what occurred before was that we did not have faculty judging presentations. I did not do that this year since our club is new and somewhat small, but next year I am planning to do this. I think that it will raise the level of work from our student volunteers.

4) What was the timeline for your program? *When did you begin the program, how often did you implement the various components of this program, what did each meeting look like, etc...*

We began the program in the fall after my meeting at Mount Notre Dame. We followed the timeline prescribed by the website as best we could. I certainly made a lot of errors along the way as the coordinator. Our on site visits as well as visits from charitable in the early portion of 2012 were the most rewarding steps for our students. Our meetings typically began with looking at what we had accomplished to make sure we had not missed anything. Then our meetings focused on the given task at hand for that stage of the process (i.e. research, visits etc.). Finally, our meetings would look ahead at what was to come. We tried to be ready for each stage. At times, it felt like trial and error (or error and trial at times).

5) Describe how you went about implementing the various components of this program into your class or afterschool curriculum. *You may answer each part separately or as one longer answer at the end. Be as specific as possible and be sure to share any stories or provide insights that you realized during the process.*

- a. **Basic components of Philanthropy education** *What did you teach? How did you teach it?* We taught the idea of philanthropy. We also looked into the root of the word civics. The roots come from Latin words meaning citizen or townsman. We discussed what this means in terms of being a good citizen and doing justice.
- b. **Identifying community needs** *How did you do this? What needs were selected and why?* We had groups evaluate needs within the greater community. Each group then reported back their recommendations to the larger club. We identified poverty as a major need in the community.

However, the identification of human trafficking as a problem in our region eventually became the nominee.

- c. **Forming community boards (small work groups).** *How did you group your students?* We grouped students by age trying to mix younger and older students. The hope is to create continuity in our club from year to year.
- d. **Interaction with non-profits.** *Method - phone, email, site visits, guest speakers, etc...? How many agencies were contacted? Any was visited? Any send guest speakers?* We contacted groups via email and the phone. We had three guest speakers. We contacted six agencies.
- e. **Issuing RFPs.** *How did this go? Who received RFPs? Who responded?* This was tricky. The Women's Crisis Center was the only group that responded. RFP's were also sent to Be Concerned and the Saint Vincent de Paul thrift store in our region. This aspect of the process will need further scrutiny from me next year as it did not work 100% as it was to have.
- f. **Evaluating RFPs.** *What process did you use?* Our students considered the presentations and decided against re-requesting RFP responses as the Women's Crisis Center had responded and also made strong presentations at our campus.
- g. **Selecting Grant Recipient.** *How did you go about selecting the winner? What were the students' reasons for selecting the winning agency?* The strength of the three presentations the Women's Crisis Center made at Notre Dame Academy during this year was the dominant factor in their selection. I also think our students being all female saw this as an opportunity to uniquely raise awareness in our community on human trafficking that disproportionately impacts women.
- h. **Awards Ceremony.** *Did you or your students have any comments to share about this event?* Our students liked the award ceremony a great deal.
- i. **Reflective questions.** *Did you have your students write any reflective pieces about the process?* No one wrote anything this year.

6) What were some of the highlights of this year?

I think the biggest highlights were the guest speakers. I also think the camaraderie between our volunteers was a plus. Also, just being part of such an amazing collective effort between multiple schools was inspiring to our students. The award ceremony was a great highlight.

7) What were some of the low points or challenges you faced?

The low points revolved around just being new at the whole process. The RFP process did not go as well as I was hoping. Also, having a small group any sports seasons or extracurricular activities that cut into attendance made things less smooth. I think organization was also something that grew but was not in place at the outset due to being new.

8) Student outcomes: Did this program...

...**have positive impact on your students?** Students were excited and empowered by the process. I think those who got to meet various leaders gained confidence in their interaction with adults. I also think the group gained a better idea of how to identify needs.

...allow any students to accept the leadership challenge? One student in particular took a lead in educating our entire school about the problem of Human Trafficking.

...have any noticeable impact on student behavior? I think a growth in responsibility was observable.

9) If you were doing this program again, what changes/improvements would you make?

The number one thing I am going to change is making it part of my Morality courses. If I can involve a larger group of students in this great program I am going to do so. Secondly, I plan on having faculty judge the proposals made by students. I think this will raise accountability. I think the program will fit nicely into the themes of charity (in the ancient sense of love) and justice in our Morality courses.

10) At this time are you still interested in participating in next year's program? Yes/No

Yes

11) In order to help future Philanthropy participants, please share the following materials. *You will receive proper acknowledgement for the materials you provide.*

a. Educational components:

b. Correspondence: Copies of the RFPs you sent, acceptance and rejection letters, etc...

c. Student work: Reflective essays or other student responses.

The trial and error aspect of our learning the program means I will not be re-using the materials we used this year.

12) We are putting together a Teacher Manual over the summer. Is there anything specific that you want us to make sure to include in the manual?

I think including a note on balancing the cultivation of leadership among students and also making sure that students are doing their jobs (without micromanaging) would be great. Beyond that, I am not sure what I would recommend at the moment, but I will pass along any thoughts as they come to me.

13) MG Website. The website will continue to be developed over the summer. Is there anything specific you would like to see included on the site?

The website was my life preserver so I really liked it.

14) Where would you like me to mail your stipend check? *Note: If there are multiple teachers at your school involved with the program, please indicate how you would like me to divide the check...and where you would like each check sent.*

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