

Community Service Program of the Month

Fall Hygiene Collection Drive

School:	University of Washington	Region:	PACURH
Person in charge:	Mindy Liou	Nominator:	Nathaniel Block
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Target Population: 50	Time Needed to Organize: One month
Number of People in Attendance: 75	Date(s) of Program: November 28-December 9
Number of People Needed to Organize: 2	Cost of Program: \$0.00 (Posters)
On-Campus Population: 5600	Chapter Size: 56

Origin of Program:

The program was originally thought of to be a clothing or food drive to support those that are less fortunate during the Thanksgiving and holiday season. However, when the United Way of King County was contacted to express the Resident Hall Student Association's (RHSA) and NRHH's desire to do a collection drive, they stated that they already get a large amount of food and clothing donations. However, one thing that they are always in need of is hygiene products. Hence RHSA and NRHH decided to shift their focus from clothes or food to hygiene products.

Word Count: 94

Please give a short description of the program:

The collection drives was a passive program that was designed to reach the most amount of residents who would be able to donate hygiene products to those that are less fortunate than themselves. RHSA and NRHH worked together to create and implement the program. There were five collection boxes that were placed at central locations within each dining hall. Accompanying each box was a large 24x36 color poster that showed what the boxes were for and the good cause that they went to. Additionally, each floor in all nine residence halls had an 8.5x11 poster for their floor as well as digital postings in our newest halls. The boxes were out in their locations for approximately two weeks with members of the RHSA and NRHH executive boards picking up the donated items on a regular basis. At the end of the week all items were taken to the United Way of King County to be put to good use. The United way of King County informed RHSA and NRHH that over 100 items had been donated during the collection drive.

Word Count: 180

Goals of the program:

The goal of the program was two fold. First, it was to get hygiene products into the hands of those less fortunate. Secondly, RHSA and NRHH wanted to raise awareness about a need in the community immediately outside of campus. While most students at UW know that clothes and food are needed, very few students consider basic hygiene products, such as soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and shampoo, as being needed by those that are less fortunate than ourselves.

Word Count: 77

Positive and lasting effects of the program:

Anytime that you are able to help out those in need- especially during the holiday season- you can look on that as a positive and long lasting effect of the program. Additionally, RHSA and NRHH were able to strengthen their relationship with United Way of King County making it so that they could undertake more charitable work for them in the future, such as when RHSA and NRHH, along with other campus groups, will be participating in the MLK Day of Service in January. Furthermore, residents learned how their was a need in the community for hygiene products, something that many individuals had not previously considered. Finally, RHSA and NRHH were able to come together and partner up to put on this terrific program. Based upon the success of this program RHSA and NRHH are planning on partnering up again to put on more terrific programs and opportunities to benefit both residents and members of the community alike.

Word Count: 158

Short evaluation of the program:

All in all I feel that this was a very successful program. The program not only provided goods for those that were in need, but also made it so that the RHSA and NRHH strengthened their tie to United Way of King County. Additionally, many residents learned about how hygiene products are needed by charitable organizations in addition to clothes and food. Furthermore while it is special anytime RHSA (or an RHA) and NRHH are able to co-program, it is even better when they are not only were very excited and happy with the opportunity to work together, but even better when their co-programming is one that can help out those in need. This is something that both organizations will work to continue in the future to help out more great causes and people in need. The only this that I would do differently is find ways to increase advertising. This could be via social media, hand drawn posters, and/or tabling.

Word Count: 161

How could this program be adapted to other campuses?

I feel that this program could easily be adapted to any other campus. Even if you don't have an RHA or NRHH chapter you can work with hall governments, RAs, or other individuals to put on this program. All you need to do is contact a charitable organization in your area and see if they are interested and if so, what they need. While UW focused on hygiene products because that was what was in need, it can be adjusted to work for clothing, food, toys, or anything else that you can think of that is needed. Additionally, other campuses can work to receive monetary donations in addition to physical donations. This latter point is something that we are not allowed to do here at UW. Finally, if you are unable to put boxes in each hall, you can place the boxes wherever you are allowed to. This could be dining facilities, near elevators, in an office, at a front desk. The possibilities are simple endless. I would encourage any school to try and work to put on a similar program and help those in need in any way that you can.

Word Count: 192
