

Service Learning Proposal
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Abstract

Service learning is an important part of many Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degrees. The completion of a service learning project is a required component for the completion of the BSN program at Ferris State University. I will be completing my service learning project with the American Red Cross as a CPR/first aid/AED instructor.

Service Learning Proposal

“Service-learning is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities” (Learn and Serve America’s National Service-Learning Clearing House, 2010). Providing service to one’s community is very important, and something all people should do. I am doing this project to meet the requirements to complete my BSN, but I am also doing it because it is something I feel I must do. I have decided to volunteer my time and knowledge to train others. I want to teach people to perform CPR and maybe one day save a life.

Agency

The American Red Cross (ARC) was formed in 1881 by Clara Barton. This organization is committed to serving people during their greatest time of need. ARC is at the fore front of every domestic disaster (American Red Cross, 2011). Along with their relief efforts they provide several other services. The ARC also provides: “community services that help the needy; support and comfort for military members and their families; the collection, processing and distribution of lifesaving blood and blood products; educational programs that promote health and safety; and international relief and development programs” (American Red Cross, 2011, para. 2).

The work of the ARC is provided by over 500,000 volunteers and 37,000 employees. These people perform their services from over 700 area chapters. Combined, the ARC responds to over 70,000 emergencies each year (American Red Cross, 2011).

The ARC is active in many ways. They respond to every house fire that occurs in their response area. They provide temporary shelter and money to families displaced by

fire or other disasters. The ARC also provides emergency services for many community events (E. Wirth, personal communication, June 1, 2011). They provide all of these services and many more, free of charge. The only services they are able to charge for are the education sessions. Through the collection of fees for classes and generous donations they are able to provide these services.

Service Learning Role

I plan on performing two roles at the ARC. My first role will be working with the Health and Safety department. In this role I will be working at community events. My main role is to monitor and respond to medical emergencies that occur at the community event. These can range from simple bumps and bruises, to more severe and life threatening events. I will be responsible to determine if the affected person needs immediate transfer to a hospital and activate the Emergency Medical Response Service.

My second role will be that of an instructor. I will be training as a CPR/First Aid/AED instructor. This training will allow me to teach members of the community in how to perform CPR, provide first aid, and how to use an AED. I plan on instructing at least one class a month. This will give me the opportunity to instruct others in a practice that could one day save a life.

Objectives

I envision that this experience will assist me in reaching the following objectives:

- Create and instruct a lesson on my own to a class of students.
- Promote a positive image of nursing and the ARC during all community events.
- Receive an evaluation of excellent form at least one of my classes.
- Increase my comfort and confidence in teaching people.

Evaluation

I will use several methods to evaluate my progress towards reaching my goals. I will first have all of the classes I teach complete and evaluation at the end. This is a requirement from ARC and a standard form is provided for this. I will also keep an ongoing journal about my experiences. I will use this journal to describe my comfort level before and after each class. I will also write about my experiences with each community event I work at. I will use this journal to monitor my progress towards becoming a proficient instructor.

Agency Information

The chapter I will be volunteering at American Red Cross of Ottawa County. The address is 270 James Street PO Box 8523 Holland, MI 49424. The contact person is Judy Petersen – Volunteer Services. Her phone number is (616) 396-6545 and her e-mail is jpgetersen@ottawaredcross.org.

References

American Red Cross (2011). *About Us*. Retrieved from

<http://www.redcross.org/portal/site/en/menuitem.d8aaecf214c576bf971e4cfe43181aa0/?vgnextoid=477859f392ce8110VgnVCM10000030f3870aRCRD&vgnnextf mt=default>

Learn and Serve America's National Service-Learning Clearing House. (2010). Retrieved from <http://www.servicelearning.org/>