

Aiken Village Preschool Project Executive Summary

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Day One Leadership Program, SLCE 1002

PROJECT EXECUTIVE ITEM 1: Realized Project Summary & Benefit

- We are in the “Melon Pod” and are working with Aiken Village for our preschool project. “United as one, we carry on.”
- Our team aspired to accomplish revamping the sandbox at Aiken Village (this includes painting each wooden panel within the sandbox area). We also hoped to accomplish constructing a decorative octopi, which entails coloring many water bottles and hanging the finished project in the sandbox. We purchased new sand and had it delivered to Aiken Village, which was our biggest accomplishment. Each of these accomplishments added personality and color to the playground.
- We have completed over 130 hours of service over the course of over 70 visits since we began serving Aiken Village in August.
- Our service project: renovating the sandbox.
 - Paint the sandbox
 - Place new sand
 - Create and hang decorations
- We have developed our team working skills and grown from the forming stage to executing the performing stage with ease.

- The goals we have accomplished are both an exciting achievement and an important addition to the community. Painting and redecorating the sandbox gave the children an opportunity to experience new adventures within their imaginations, as well as great happiness in being surrounded by bright colors. Also, it benefitted our community partner's manager, Mrs. Lucy, by bringing her joy in seeing the kids in a new and "magical" place.
- At Aiken Village, we serve 16 children who enjoy our company and look forward to seeing us every time we come. We visited the preschool on average of three to four times per week, and 134 hours total since August. As for location and distance, Aiken Village is around the corner from the Humphrey Coliseum, which is about 0.9 miles from campus.
- More information we should discuss within our team is our focus to be primarily on the children. When we arrive at the preschool, they get so excited because they finally have more playmates. It is really amusing when one of us is there and one of them wants to play freeze tag or hide-and-seek. We cannot say "no." We are there for them; however, since we are there to do a project as well it can be hard to tell a child "no."

PROJECT EXECUTIVE ITEM 2: Leadership Lessons Learned

- The greatest challenge that our team faced was trying to schedule times that we were all free so we could work on the project. Every member of our team has a different schedule between classes, jobs, study groups, and other extracurricular activities. It was difficult to find a time that worked for everyone.

- We came together as a team and figured out what time everyone was available. We planned the date and time to work on the project so we could get it done in a timely manner.
- We learned some important leadership lessons while working with Aiken Village. We learned that no matter what challenges you or your team face, you must always do your part to make sure your team achieves its goals. We also learned how to work collectively as a team in a supportive and positive way. Through the program, we learned a lot about working with children and co-workers of different age groups. Finally, we learned what it takes in being a role model for anyone looking up to you for leadership and guidance.
- When we are volunteering with Aiken Village, we expected to learn how to work as a team, be involved with the preschoolers, and learn their personalities. However, what surprised us was that we have gotten attached to the children and they enjoy us coming every single day. We also were surprised to know that after we finished the project the children were really excited about what we had done.
- We will apply lessons learned in our future lives by taking advantage of the knowledge we have acquired in Day One and use it to our advantage. Day One has opened our minds to a lot of new things, including a lot of new job opportunities. We have also learned a lot about being a leader. Being a part of a team has taught us that we do not always have to be in charge to make a difference. Projects go by faster when each team member is allowed to showcase his or her best abilities in whatever activity they participate in. Now that we have learned so many valuable lessons about being a leader, we will not be afraid to step back and allow others to take charge on future projects.