

Day One Leadership

### **OCHS #2 Project Executive Summary**

We are the Red Rovers and we represent the Red Pod: Khristian Blanchard, Mallorie Cole, Destiny Flemons, Jeleasa Grayned, Hadley Jakins, Ali Marchant, and Claire Reed. This semester we were fortunate to be one of two groups who partnered with the Oktibbeha County Humane Society. The humane society is an open-admission shelter that operates in the city of Starkville. They provide temporary homes for stray or abused animals, medical assistance, and increase social behavior with other animals. They maintain a yearly adoption rate of above 90 percent. We spend our time volunteering at the shelter assisting the staff, cleaning the facility, and loving the animals.

In order to raise awareness for the animals in the shelter, our team decided to put on a doggie fashion show. We hoped to advertise the dogs in our fashion show so we could help get them adopted. In addition to showcasing the animals, we wanted to collect donations to be able to give to the shelter once the project was completed. On the day of our project, we had a few bumps in the road. The windy weather made our tents and curtains blow around, but with some tape, extra stakes, and perseverance we quickly found a solution that would work for our event. When our popcorn machine had a tumble and one of the doors shattered, everyone kept a level head and a few of the team members quickly cleaned up the mess.

After we solved these problems, we had some smooth sailing for a while. We welcomed in a crowd of 50 guests, served them Capri Suns, and Khristian led our group through an amazing fashion show. Although a few of the dogs did not get along, we managed to get them down the runway without a hitch. Our audience loved watching the dogs, and a few people even had interest in adopting one of the dogs. We collected almost twenty dollars in donations for the

shelter and advertised all of the dogs and the cats. From our event, we learned that no matter how much we plan, you can never foresee everything that will happen, and you will always have to improvise on some aspect of the initial plan. As a team, we also had to learn to communicate efficiently and organize tasks so that we could tackle such a large project in a small amount of time.

Altogether, our group dedicated a lot of time and energy to this project and volunteering at the shelter. We had multiple meetings to lay out plans before the day of the event. We all took time out of our weekly schedule to spend time at the shelter and together we have 129.5 hours. Overall, we have all grown in our service and leadership skills this semester and actually had fun doing it. We could not have asked for a better community partner than the Oktibbeha County Humane Society.