

The Claiborne Retirement Community Project Executive Summary

Kendal Brewer, Clay Evans, Shawn Johnson, Claire Kellen, Elexia Williams

Day One Leadership Program, SLCE 1002

Project Executive Item 1: Realized Project Summary & Benefit

This semester, the Purple Pod worked with The Claiborne at Adelaide Retirement Community to visit with the residents and assist them with day-to-day activities such as knitting lessons, bingo, and watermelon picnics. Our goal for the semester was to work each week with the staff to assist in facility needs. Most of these needs involved playing games and socializing with residents. Our attention was mostly on memory care, which involved building relationships with the residents and trying to help the staff from being overwhelmed.

From the start, we saw that the days could sometimes seem monotonous for the residents. As an action team, we wanted to accomplish a fun and unique experience for the residents to brighten up their week. We planned a Halloween party and trick-or-treating event where the residents could dress up and pass out candy to trick-or-treaters who came through the facility. We had food, candy, a photo booth, and face painting at our party, which the residents seem to enjoy. The party really benefited our community partner because it was something fun and different from their day-to-day routine. The residents enjoyed getting to interact with other people outside of The Claiborne, such as children from elementary schools who came to trick-or-treat, and family members of fellow residents. Our party was about two hours long, with an hour to set up at the beginning, and fifteen minutes to take down. Our event went smoothly, and the residents were all happy to celebrate with us.

Our accomplishments were important because there was both a need and a want within The Claiborne to have a fun event that broke up their ordinary routines. It was enjoyable for both the residents as well as ourselves to build relationships that span across a few generations. All of our team members were able to get our 20 service hours, and we were able to serve over 30 residents and multiple nursing and staff members.

Project Executive Item 2: Leadership Lessons Learned

Our original plan for this semester was to plan a senior prom for the residents, but upon talking to Mary Todd Gordon, the Activities Coordinator at The Claiborne, we decided that we could better accomplish The Claiborne's needs through a Halloween party. We planned to give out awards to different residents, such as prom king and queen and best smile, but instead we gave out a prize for the best Halloween costume. Our event was still interactive for the residents, because we brought in kids to trick-or-treat, and there was a sense of community within the facility. We also provided a photo booth with different props for pictures. We wanted to show the staff that they are appreciated, too, so we brought in a sandwich platter for them to enjoy.

Some of the challenges we faced included making sure all of our supplies were accounted for and trying to coordinate a time for our action team members to gather the supplies we needed to pull off the party. The main ways for us to overcome these challenges were good communication, understanding each other's schedules, and holding everyone accountable for his or her assignments. The most important leadership lesson we learned was time management and communication. It was important for us to stick to a schedule to make sure we got everything done on time. We expected to learn how to work together efficiently, but what surprised us was when we had to learn how to adapt to a change in plans, which is a valuable skill. We had a

senior prom all planned, but we quickly learned how to modify our plans to be able to pull off a Halloween party instead. We will be able to use these skills in our future lives because things rarely ever go the way you plan them, and you may not always have enough time to adjust. Now we have the skills to communicate with others around us, and use teamwork to change our plans quickly and effectively when things do not go exactly how we planned.