



Tiny Bundles Fundraiser

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Acknowledgements

I acknowledge that the work for this project took place on the unceded ancestral lands of the xwməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam) Nations. I am grateful for the opportunity to work, study, and host my fundraiser on the land of the Musqueam Nation.

Cover photo by Aaron Doucett on Unsplash

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Introduction

During my gap year, I had the privilege of volunteering at the Surrey Food Bank, where I found immense satisfaction in distributing food to families in need. It was during this time that I discovered the Tiny Bundles program, which focuses on providing pregnant women and young families with essential items such as formula, baby food, eggs, diapers, and other necessities to bridge the gap. However, as I interacted with the staff and volunteers at the Surrey Food Bank, I noticed that there was a significant drop in donations during the pandemic, while the demand continued to rise. This realization motivated me to take action and organize a fundraiser to address the critical issue of food insecurity among pregnant women and young families. Having experienced the impact of inflation on a personal level, I could understand the challenges that low-income families face when it comes to providing for their loved ones. The pandemic has only exacerbated financial struggles, making it even more challenging for these families to afford basic necessities, let alone the extra nutrients required for pregnant women and young children. My objective is to increase awareness and raise funds for the Tiny Bundles program, ensuring that these families have access to vital resources to help them thrive during this challenging time.

Project Summary

To address the issue of lack of donations available at the Surrey Food Bank, I organized a crafts and painting event for my peers in the Faculty of Nursing. With the help of the Connect to Community grant, I was able to purchase supplies for the activities and provide lunch for the attendees. Additionally, the funds were used to purchase much-needed items for the Tiny Bundles Program. The event was a great success, with around 20 of my classmates and friends attending and bringing both monetary and physical donations. By the end of the fundraiser, we had raised a remarkable \$1200 worth of donations and items.

Reflections

Initially, I was very excited when I started planning the fundraising event. However, as the event date drew nearer, I became increasingly nervous about the turnout and success of the event. These moments of uncertainty and self-doubt pushed me to grow and realize that if I did not believe in the event, no one else would either. To be proactive, I reached out to my professors and asked if I could speak to my classmates during class time to promote the event. Though I

felt nervous speaking in front of the class, it was during these uncomfortable moments that I experienced the most growth. I learned that believing in myself was the most important thing I could do, and that my peers were more than willing to support me. Through this experience, I discovered that promoting the event in person and communicating with others face-to-face was more effective than online promotion.

As I worked on this project, I identified several strengths, assets, and capacities within myself. I discovered my ability to take initiative and organize events. Through this experience, I also improved my public speaking skills and developed effective communication techniques to convey my ideas to others. Moreover, I discovered that I possess the strength to believe in myself and overcome self-doubt, which helped me achieve my goals.

As for the community, I found that there was a significant capacity for generosity and support for those in need. The Surrey Food Bank was a prime example of how the community can come together to support those who are struggling. Through this project, I also discovered the importance of community partnerships and collaboration in achieving a common goal.

Community Impact

While my project was centered around a one-time fundraiser event, I plan to continue supporting the Surrey Food Bank and their Tiny Bundles Program even after the grant completion. One way I intend to do this is by continuing to volunteer at the food bank and donating whenever I can.

In addition, I hope that the awareness I have raised through my project will inspire my peers to also get involved in community service and volunteering. I believe that by promoting the importance of giving back, we can create a ripple effect of positive change in our communities.

Looking ahead, I would like to explore the possibility of hosting another fundraiser event to support the Tiny Bundles Program in the future. In the meantime, during my summer break, I plan on continuing to volunteer at the Surrey Food Bank and finding other ways to give back to my community.

Student Learning

My original learning objectives for the Connect to Community Grant project were focused on hosting a fitness-related event to raise awareness and funds for the Tiny Bundles Program at the

Surrey Food Bank. The goal was to raise up to \$2,000 in donations and baby-related items. To ensure success, I planned to create promotional and marketing materials and advertise the event on social media and around UBC. I also aimed to have a minimum of 50 people attend by creating an online check-in system.

However, during the planning process, I faced several challenges that forced me to change my plans. The fitness trainer I had originally planned to bring in was not feeling well, and I had trouble getting a hold of fitness mats for the event. I also learned that I could not rent mats from UBC Recreation unless it was after 8:00 PM, which was too late for the event. Despite these setbacks, I remained committed to the project and found a creative solution by switching to a simple arts activity. This allowed me to still engage my peers and raise awareness for the Tiny Bundles Program while providing a stress-relieving activity during a busy time in the term.

Although the project did not go exactly as planned, I am proud of what I accomplished and what I learned throughout the process. I was able to practice my leadership skills by organizing an event and learning how to adapt to unexpected challenges. I also learned the importance of believing in myself and taking action towards making a positive change in my community.

In the future, I plan to leverage the learning from this grant and project experience to continue developing my leadership skills and organizing events that make a meaningful impact in the community. I will also continue to volunteer and support the Surrey Food Bank and other non-profit organizations that serve vulnerable populations. Overall, this project has been a valuable experience for my professional growth and community involvement, and I am grateful for the opportunity to make a difference in my community.

Recommendations [Next Steps]

To students applying for the CC2 grant, I would encourage you to identify a cause that you feel strongly about and reach out to organizations that align with your interests. Most organizations are eager to welcome student-led initiatives aimed at raising funds or donations. Lastly, I believe that taking on a challenge for a greater cause is an incredible opportunity for personal growth and self-discovery. There were times where I doubted myself, however, by figuring out solutions and finding the right resources, I was able to successfully host the event.