

Reflective Log 1

June 16, 2008

Mr. Kennedy called me up for our first group meeting. I remember him telling me there was going to be another member in the group. I have never seen or heard of his named, I was told that he is a freshman at Johnson. I am very excited to start this project and meet my partner for this upcoming fundraiser. I wonder how much money we will be able to raise for the homeless. When I got dropped off at Johnson all the old memory before school ended came flying back to mind. It feels like summer has already ended. I walked into the empty hallways of Johnson High School; the first person I came in contact with was Mrs. White. She sat at her computer desk doing paper work. I smile and greeted her then walk into Mr. Kennedy's office. Jayvee, my partner was already sited down at the far right corner. I introduced myself to Jayvee before we got down to business. The first two things we discussed about were the group names and what to fundraise. We came up with a couple of good ideas, at the end we narrowed it down to hosting an all you can eat Italian dinner. Mr. Kennedy knows someone who was willing to help us provide the food and space. Next up was the organization named. Project Homeless was what we came up with but I pointed out that this organization already exists so we changed it to St. Paul Project Homeless. I am very confident about the two ideas; hope this event become a big hit in St. Paul.

Reflective Log 2

June 17, 2008

I am tired but ready for another day of hard work. We are making flyers for or banquet dinner at TST Catering and Hall. I am so touch with their generosity. I can't believe there was someone willing to help provide so much food. They said they should be able to feed at least 300 people. I don't think we will have that much customer but it will be great if we do. The first thing we did was search for a homeless photo on Google. It should be a good eye catching image to help advertise our fundraiser. It took about an hour to find a good photo. I was the one who choose it. I really like how the photographer took this picture. It's a black and white image. By looking at this old man, I was able to feel his pain and see his suffering. I decided to have this image behind the text so when they read our intro hopefully they feel determine to help the homeless. We had also typed up the location and cost on the back of the flyer. Mr. Kennedy printed out two copies and went over to Kinko's to have them make color copy for us. They were very kind; we got twenty copies for free. We took those flyers and went to small business like star bucks to have them post it up on the windows. This will be the start of a new beginning.

Reflective Log 3

June 19, 2008

I don't know what the plan is for today but I am up for the challenge. As usual my brother dropped me off in front of Johnson. I speeded walk inside the building inspecting to see both Mr. Kennedy and Jayvee sitting down in the office. To my surprise I was greeted by Mrs. White and informed that they have not shown up yet. I set down across from her desk and started a short conversation to pass the time. He laughed and smile as we talked about this past school year. Mr. Kennedy and Jayvee showed up at the same time after ten minutes. We all went into his office and he told us about today's plan. We will be going into big business around St. Paul to ask for their supports and donation. Our first stop will be all the Targets in St. Paul. I was pretty nervous, I felt embarrassed to speak about the topic because what if they don't believe us. I notice none of

us wore the right alter. Mr. Kennedy was in shorts with strip polo, Jayvee was wearing a hug gangster like shirt with sagged jean, and I was in my sweat pants. If I was the manger I would probably bluff about the whole situation. I don't think I would have believed them. Everything did go as I expected. We did not make any money today. Very sad and tiring, I woke up so early I didn't even get the chance to eat breakfast. I thought we would make some process today but I guess not. Maybe tomorrow we might have more luck.

Reflective Log 4

June 21, 2008

I fundraise in my neighborhood today. I haven't done this kind of thing since grade school. This brings back the old memories of when I used to fundraise with my friends from six grades. We would often race to see who get the most customer and best prize. Unfortunate I lost every time but this doesn't stop me from doing it. The first house I started with was in fact mine. As I walked out I close the door and knock on it. My mom came down the stairs and as she opened the door I quickly talked about the fundraiser and asked for a donation. She laughed and handed over five bucks to help me start off. I was surprise she really give in. I took my mom's money and went to the house next to us. No one was home so I continue down the block. I kept walking until I realized I have walked down fifteen blocks which took me 2 hours and 15 minute. That was pretty far from home. I crossed the road to the next street and turned back towards where I lived. Most of the people were very generous, I received a good amount of donation when I came back home.

Reflective Log 5

June 22, 2008

I came into the office 30 minutes late. I handed the donation to Mr. Kennedy and so did Jayvee. We both made a great deal of money from our neighborhood. It may not be much if you think about it but it's a good start for us both. Mr. Kennedy unfortunately did not do his homework. But he promised he would next time. His reason was reasonable so we forgave him. We went to big business today. Office Max was the first store we encounter. They seem nice, I thought they were going to help with at least 20 dollars but all they give us was five dollar. I mean its great but five dollar! Come on he could have done better. Before we left the store we also bought a ticket roll for five dollars. Mr. Kennedy was joking around about using the mangers five dollar to pay for the tickets. I really thought he was going to but at the end he paid with his own money. Next off was a Ham store. We asked them if they could donate a ham for our dinner auction. Unfortunately the manger was not in so we had to come in another time. Since Great Clip was next to the Ham store Jayvee and I went in to ask if they were willing to give in a free haircut coupon. The owner who was a woman is really rude and mean. When she talked to her customer she had a very sweet tone. I thought she would help us for sure but as she walks towards Mr. Kennedy she rolled her eyes and give a dirty look. I felt like she wanted us out right away. After eight minute of her time she refused to help and turn us down. We all came back to the car very disappointed. But lucky we bump into this lady who we help. She forgot her purse in the cart and was about to drive off but Mr. Kennedy quickly grab it and reenter it to her. He than explain to the lady about our goal and she help bought two tickets. Jayvee and I got our hope back up again.

Reflective Log 14

July 6, 2008

Today is St. Paul Project Homeless' first day bagging groceries at Kowalski's market. I am very nervous considering this is my first real job. I was told not to be late on the first day, but I couldn't help being late due to the time it took me to get ready. Even though when doing a job, it doesn't help to look good, I couldn't help but look as nice as I possibly could get. When I finally arrived, I was shocked to find out that bagging groceries was more fun than I thought. I didn't mind helping other people especially when they thanked me. For me, when I get appreciated for the work I do, I would gladly do anything for as long as needed because I like the feeling of being needed and helpful. An embarrassing moment of the trip was once when I accidentally helped a man unknowing that he was an employee of the store. It felt kind of stupid of me helping him thinking he was just another person who wouldn't mind me helping him. A major downside of the trip was that we didn't get to eat anything from 12:00 noon to 6:00 PM; we were only given water the whole time because we didn't have time to stop and have a lunch. Even though we basically starved the whole day, it was worth it to get a few thanks here and there from people.

Reflective Log 15

July 7, 2008

Today I went to fundraise not with my group but with my family. Today was slightly different than what I usually did with my school group. A lot of my family members helped including my cousins. My brothers came to help which really helped. When my two brothers and my two cousins (boys), work together, everything gets done fast and is always very successful but also really fun. The reason to that is due to the fact that they are very competitive towards each other. As always we split the 4 of the guys into a group together. We didn't know what happened but when me and my group reached a certain neighborhood and the ones beyond it, they had told me that some other people had already come earlier from the same group. I was shocked to find out that they had already gone so far that they got to their finishing point of the day and onto ours. They didn't tell us what they did but I was sure they were running most of the time and making a game out of the fundraising. I wished my group was as successful and as fun as theirs. We returned earlier than they did, and when they returned, they were all laughing about their highlights of the day.

Reflective Log 16

July 10, 2008

Today my family agreed to help me again because it was so fun the day before. Again the boys turned out to be very successful again today but not as much as the day before. This was probably due to the fact that we didn't fundraise as long as I had expected. When we were half way into the day, my cousin suggested that we go hang out at a park the rest of the day and have a picnic/BBQ/party sort of thing. We called as much people as possible but with such short notice; only about 15-20 people came. We quickly arranged a place to rest and eat peacefully. As usual, all the boys took this time to show off all their football skills to the other boys. I usually just sit and talk to all of the girls. I think today is not really successful but it was fun. Everyone

Reflective Log 6

June 24, 2008

I walked around my neighborhood today. I can't believe two third of the house I knock on turn me down. My hope was so high until after I got reject from three blocks of houses. Many people didn't open their door and others weren't home. Did I go too early? I woke up around 8:15 and started the fundraiser at 9:30 a.m. The most I made today was about 40 bucks which mean out of fifty houses that I went to only 7 help bought tickets. This number is very disappointing but I believe I will have better luck next time. My first two blocks was pretty quite. I think everyone was still asleep in bed. The third and fourth block brighten my day, three people bought tickets. As for the last block I felt very uncomfortable. Everyone seems to be questioning about my fundraiser. I'm guessing they don't trust me. I understand where they are coming from because there are people who go around selling fake stuff to get money. Luckily I have my student ID to indentified myself and flyers plus ticket to prove that I am not making this whole thing up. They seem to believe me but at the end they still turn my offer down. I came home after five long hours of walking. Today is not my day at all, I'm so tired.

Reflective Log 7

June 25, 2008

No group meeting or any fundraiser today. I am taking the day off to relax and hopefully gain my confident back. I was looking at our dinner tickets, the ones we have been selling and well it looked pretty lame. I thought about it for a while and decide to make new ones. Maybe the ticket image is the reason why no one wants to buy it. They do look poorly made. I went online and search for the homeless photo we used as a default image on our flyer. It took me a while to find the picture. I also did some researcher on how to create homemade tickets. I made about six different tickets until I finally got what I wanted. The official one is red. I wrote the location and amount in the middle; on top of the homeless picture. I am very satisfied with the result. My older brother was the first one I showed the ticket to. We both agree that I did a great job and it looks professional for a girl who have never made tickets before. I can't wait to show them to my group. I wonder if they would like it. I had also added a ticket look to it by using a knife to create the teeth marking so it's easy to rip apart. Boy did that take a long time I had to go through 300 tickets one by one. At times I was very close to cutting my finger off.

Reflective Log 8

June 26, 2008

Mr. Kennedy got two more students to join the group. Their names are Sumpos and Author. Both freshmen at Johnson just like Jayvee. We got along just great, I tried to give them a warm welcome and good impression of me since it is the first time we met. This is so wired; even though we all go to school together I have never heard of their names or seen them before until now. Sumpos is a very cool girl. I really like her personality. As for Author, he is a great guy. I was told he is the smartest freshmen at Johnson meaning he is top one. That is very impressive. I'm so glad to have them join us. We now have five members in St. Paul Project Homeless. One awesome fact about this organization is that not only do we have a mix of gender but also a mix of different ethnicity. Jayvee is African American, Mr. Kennedy is white, Sumpos is Cambodian, Author is Vietnamese and I am Hmong. Isn't this cool? So today our goal is to go into big business and ask for more donations. We tackle the Best Buy in Woodbury and White Bear. The

managers said we had to fill out some kind of form to get the drawing for money donation. I don't know if we will get this but it's worth the wait. The amount given out was close to 600 dollar in cash I believe. Mr. Kennedy filled about three different forms at three different businesses. We are looking forward to get a call soon.

Reflective Log 9

June 29, 2008

Today we are going to fundraise near TST Catering and Hall. Mr. Kennedy dropped Jayvee, Sumpos and me off at a street and drove off to talk to Stacy and Tony the owner of the place we will be hosting our dinner. The first house we went to had a man sitting out in the front yard. We all thought he would for sure buy it but it turned out he didn't speak English therefore he did not understand what we were saying. We continue on with other houses. Jayvee did all the talking for the first five house then we switched it off to Sumpos and me. We all took turn talking to the residents which made the job easier and fun. After the two blocks we spit up. Jayvee went by himself, as for me and Sumpos we decided to stick together. Jayvee got a dollar from this church across the street. I thought it was kind of funny when he told us. There was this one guy who lived in a house that had trees growing on the pipe. I ring the door bell and waited for two minutes. This shirt less old man with boxers opened the garages door and told Sumpos and me to go away. I thought that was really rude the way he approached us with no clothes on. So far we got nothing but one dollar. Most of the residents did not open their doors which made it hard to inform others about our fundraiser.

Reflective Log 10

June 30, 2008

I slept over at my sister's house so that I could do some fundraising at her place. She lives in Lake Elmo. My niece, nephew and sister helped me sell the tickets. We received 20 dollars from the house across from them and that was about it. Everyone else was not home and the rest said they could not help us. I was disappointed but had hoped that the next neighborhood will buy some tickets and help donate to the homeless. My hope went down after getting rejected by three different neighborhoods. I thought that since they live in the sunburn they might be able to give a little money to help support me but I thought wrong. My last house didn't open the door for me until after four minute. When the owner came out she looked surprise to see me. I quickly introduced myself and handed over a flyer. She looked it and asked if I live here and how did I know of this place. I said my sister lives close by so she knows the place pretty well. The owner looked beyond me as if someone was stalking her and closed the door. She gave a hand signal telling me to go away and that she was not interested in my event. I felt very hurt and disrespected. My niece and I walked down the steps and head towards her house. Are they not helping because they don't get any benefits since it all goes to the homeless in St. Paul and not Woodbury? I don't know what the reason is but I am very sad with the outcome. I don't think I would ever come back here to do more fundraising.

Reflective Log 11

July 2, 2008

We are back in business. Mr. Kennedy took us all the way to South St. Paul to talk with the Wal-Mart manger there. He was really cool. His name is Tom; he gave us about 50 bucks in cash. Tom mention something about going to a place called Mendel State. They will for sure help us because his wife works there. Tom commented everyone in the group and encourages us to continue the good work. After receiving the donation Mr. Kennedy decided to treat the four of us to subways. The sandwich was delicious, and health. This really filled me up since I didn't eat breakfast. We left Wal-Mart and went to the bank to open up an account so we could deposit our money for safe keeping. Mr. Kennedy told the group that just yesterday someone tried to steal his car. Our fundraiser money was sitting on the passenger side. Luckily he caught the thief otherwise all our hard work would have gone to waste. The account is named after our organization. With this done it will be much easier and more convenient for donors who wish to give a donation or simply buy tickets for the event itself. Once we got this settle down we went to Mendel State and found Tom's wife who also give us 50 dollars. They are both wonderful couples and very generous.

Reflective Log 12

July 4, 2008

My experiences at Woodbury did not go as planned; I hope that Oakdale does not disappoint me either. My oldest sister lives in that neighborhood, she says the people there are very nice; I should go and fundraise in her area. She is confident they will help buy tickets from me. With that said I was eager to start fundraising. The first house was my sister's neighbor. They give me ten dollars and bought two tickets. So far everything is going great. The next nine blocks I received 20 dollar in total. I am very glad I did not give up; I was able to make 60 by the end of the day. Many donors asked wonderful question about my organization and how I got introduce to this fundraiser. I was also asked personal questions such as my grade level and school name. I felt honor to tell them all these information, most people wouldn't care to ask. I used up all my flyers that was spit among the five of us. Participates took extras flyer to pass out to their friends and family member which was a great help to me. I really hope they make it to the dinner on Friday the twenty-five.

Reflective Log 13

July 5, 2008

My group and I went back to the Best Buy in Maple and Woodbury. We didn't get the chance to talk with their manger last week so we came back again hoping she/he would be in today. We waited a while in the lobby until she came to greet us. Her name is Helen, she seem really interested in the topic. Helen said they can help us but we must to fill out this form and from there they will decide which group or organization gets the money. I didn't think this was worth the wait. There is no chance that we will get the donation. The Best Buy in Woodbury said the exact same thing. After filling out so many papers I decided to give up on big business and just continue going door to door. Mr. Kennedy tried very hard to pull the group together and keep our hope up. He kept saying, "Don't give up yet, maybe we will get better luck at the next store." Hopefully what he said is true.

needs a break once in a while says my cousin, by which is a comment I stand by considering how happy and restful I am today. I feel as though I could do this forever.

Reflective Log 17

July 11, 2008

Today I was back with my group fundraising again. Today we decided to go to big companies for donations. For some reason, I am disappointed at the success rate of today. I expected that help from big companies would really help in our fundraising. Companies like Wal-Mart, Best Buy, Circuit City, etc... are the companies we are focusing on. Throughout the whole day, I come across many disappointments. Most of the companies say that they will support us but there is no guarantee. With that chance of failure, I feel as though the day is wasted. The thing that made it not the most wasted day was that there were two targets today that guaranteed their support and would be there the day of the event where we would host the buffet to help the homeless. That brightened up my day but didn't really cover up for all the times I felt like I was wasting my time asking for support from companies that didn't guarantee anything. I came home that day disappointed but gave me more reason to try harder next time.