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2020 R/C CLIF
Final Report & Budget

1. Final Report

In my project my main goal was parent engagement and providing the parents in this community resources and connections to help them stay involved with their children during after school hours while also running a household and working. I wanted to do this over a series of four workshops for the parents bringing in people from the community to teach them and to connect them to. My partner in this was Prospect Hill terrace apartments specifically the community center which was run by Emma Brazo at the time. This is a low-income community mostly filled by single working parents. These parents have so many factors including work and language barriers that don't allow them to be as involved as they would like to be with their children and their academics and lives in general. Being someone who was on the receiving end of opportunities like these growing up, it felt right and important to provide these families with these resources especially because I know and have connected and formed relationships through other activities with many of the children who live there.

Hearing stories that the kids told me was initially what made me want to apply for this fellowship. Initially I thought that doing a survey to see what times and topics were best and more interesting to the parents. In this community there are three main languages spoken so I made sure that my survey was printed in each of those languages. I brought the surveys to the children in the afterschool program so that when they were leaving, they could take them straight home and hand them to or put them down for a parent or guardian to eventually see. I realized this was not the best method when I received roughly 3 surveys back not even fully filled out. I was pretty upset by this and honestly scared that my program would not reach any of the parents in this community. However, I decided to just decide on the details of the workshops myself and I created flyers, spoke to the community resources I was bringing in and just got the ball rolling with prize initiatives and things to take home from the workshops that the parents would get for free. I was hesitant deciding this stuff on my own, after we had speakers come in and talk to us about assessments and not assuming the needs of our community, I felt like that's what I was doing, and it was just wrong. I had to step back and reflect and realize that my intentions were pure and genuine. I was using information and stories that I received from sources who live there, the children. I wasn't assuming these needs or creating them blindly and realizing that was a huge step for me. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, I was never able to host any of these workshops or connect with the parents. In the future I hope as the intern I can start and continue activities like this for the parents that are ongoing and so that they all eventually have the opportunity to experience them. It won't look exactly the same as what I planned for this fellowship, but my mission and goals are still the same and I care about the families in this community.

I've learned a lot from this project, the cohort and all of the trainings we received from different people. In the future I want to work for a nonprofit working with low income families of color and this was really great preparation for that. The most important lesson I learned is that in order to assess the needs and to be impactful with your project, you need to talk to the people living there and going through it. You cannot help anyone just with assumptions of what *you* think they need. To be effective you need to find out about access to resources they have, you

need to find out their preferred or maybe only communication methods and you need to ask questions and hear stories in order to understand, process and make the best decisions for the people you are working with. Helping comes from the heart not from blind judgements in the head. This experience for me was a rollercoaster and although I am sad I wasn't able to finish it, I am thankful for what I learned and for being chosen to be a part of this cohort.

2. Budget

Since I was not able to finish my project or have even one of my workshops, I did not use any of my budget. It was allotted to benefit the parents as much as possible with prizes for attendance, food and childcare during the workshops as well as many things for them to take home to practice what they learned. With that being said, the actual expenses for my project were \$0.