**What was the activity selected? Use specifics as to a description of your activity, who attended (friends, family, co-workers, etc), location, and date. What did it feel like to make something happen in the world that would not have happened otherwise without you?**

The activity I selected for this assignment was to collect toys for local hospitals so we can donate them once we have a fair amount and a good contact. My team helped to message, call, and inbox people requesting donations, and asked them to bring the gifts to my house over the course of the week, when it was convenient for them. Many of which were people we knew personally. My two little sister, my mom, a few friends, and I help to spread the word to other people around us about donating unused toys and board/card games. We plan take the collected toys to local hospitals were my older sister worked as a nurse and CRNA. It felt amazing to be making this idea come to life. My older sister was only 34 years old when she passed away unexpectedly two months ago. She loved to be a nurse/CRNA and help people, especially children. Even though she did not have children of her own she loved all children she met. She could make them smile and laugh even when they were scared and worried. Knowing we could potentially make children just as happy as she did warmed our hearts that have been so broken these past couple months since she has been gone.

**Were the lives of others enriched, if only for two hours? Did others feel empowered, listened to, capable, confident, and important? Why or why not?**

While we have not yet completed out mission many lives of the people who are helping and donating were enriched. They were enriched by the act of giving to others in need but also helping other to heal with the passing of my sister. Our family is not alone in the heart breaking loss of my older sister. She had so many friends whom she loved and treated just like she would us. These people grieved and cried just as much as we did. I heard so many stories and memories of Tanya, my sister, shared in the time we worked together to kick start this idea.

I feel like the group as a whole felt empowered, listened to, capable, confident, and important. We were so focused on the task at hand, but also it was a great bonding experience. Spreading the word to others throughout this past weekend, so we could generate the collection was a little time consuming. On the other hand the shear amount of outreach from others was very rewarding and can still hold mass amounts of potential. I did not blatantly ask the participants if they felt all of these things, but I could read from their reactions that they were so happy to be helping.

**With this act of leadership, what values did you exemplify? (Use the Values Drive Commitment chapter concepts in your response.)**

This past week has been especially emotional and hard on me, since it has marked the second month since my sister passed. My family has been emotional and sad, some even depressed. I could only think about what Tanya would suggest or want to do, which is where I came up with the idea. I listened to my inner self and showed other how important it would be to become involved and participate. Since I work, go to school, and now have to administrate an estate time is a major constraint for me. I worked hard to get all of my activities cleared up so I could participate this weekend.

I discovered along with others that we could heal through doing good deed and leaning on each other during this difficult time. I know a lot of what I have done these past couple months has to deal with my older sister, but I cannot help but think about her in everything it do. She was always my number one supporter and always there to hold me when times were tough. By helping us, her family, and close friends do something in her name we all have thought of her life in a positive way.

**Were your members a group or a team? Using the stages of team development, (Forming, Storming, Norming, Performing) describe the specific behaviors that show the stage you chose.**

The members participated with me were a in my opinion are part of a team. We were individuals acting with a common goal; Help children by giving items that would make them feel less scared, and frightened in there most vulnerable times. We most definitely went through the forming stages, since my younger sister is more head strong than I am and she always wants to be in charge. In some ways we skipped over the storming and norming stages only to be on the same page with the same goals. We all realized what we wanted to do with getting donations. We were soon in the performing stages were people we happy to donate and were making arrangements to bring items to me later that week.

**Were there any complications or frustrations? Was it satisfying? Did you have to secure resources?**

A couple of the complication that arose was contacting methods, and what we would except for donations. We soon realized the items would need to be new or barely used. Since they were going to be donations we could not be too picky, but we had to state they would be going to sick children in hospitals so it would be best if they could be sterilized. It was very satisfying to realized out team could be on the same page and be consistent on expectations. Since we were asking other for donations of toy we did not need to secure any resources other than time, and commitment. We did however get some donations of money, since people wanted to help, but did not have toys to donate.

**What were the difficulties of developing a vision of what to do? How did you motivate others?**

Developing the vision was difficult for me because I am not the type of person to ask others for help. I consider myself a strong person when it comes to most situations. I do not like asking for handouts, and some time I am too strong and too dependent on myself. I decided to step outside my comfort zone and ask as many people that would be willing to help facilitate this idea. I motivated those involved by using my older sister’s passion and need to help others as inspiration for others. I lead by example in making the first few phone calls while working on how to phrase what we wanted to say. It snowballed in to a successful event and has even continued to grow so we can take the next step in donating.

**What leadership truths from the textbook did you apply? How?**

By far I exemplified the truth of “You Can’t do it Alone” I know most people will use this as an example, but for me it is a big deal because I try to do most things for myself. I do not like asking for help or expecting other to do what I would like them to. Stepping outside my “alone” box I could see how much more I can accomplish when I am working with a team. If I tried to do this same task alone I would have maybe got a 10th of the donations I did with my team. I would not have as much to give, but most importantly I would not have other to share the experience with or as many great memories. There is also the healing factor of something good coming of our grief and sadness. We have used this to fuel the idea of donating as soon as we are done collecting items.

**Based on this week's white paper reading (The Real Leadership Challenge: TOP-TO-BOTTOM FOCUS and EXECUTION), how did you facilitate focus and execution in your activity? Use some or all the five steps in your response.**

As you could probably tell from the questions above my by far exemplified solution 3; I engaged the hearts and mind of people. I shared with them that I wanted to do this task to help with how difficult it has been missing my sister. She would have wanted us to turn our tears and sorrow into something good. She would have wanted us to love each other like she loved us and so many others. When starting the activity we gathered as a team to start how we wanted to execute the task. I shared a few videos of my sister with children along with some of the picture of her at her proudest moments, which helped with the inspirations and drive to success.

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