**Application Name:HelpOut**

**Developer: Shatrujeet Singh Naruka**

**Motivation and Need**

Homelessness is one of the biggest problems faced by United States of America in today’s age. The number of people without a roof on their head is increasing every day because of the soaring housing prices over the nation. Los Angeles County’s homeless population has soared 23% over last year despite increasing success in placing people in housing, according to the latest annual count. The sharp rise, to nearly 58,000, suggested that the pathway into homelessness continues to outpace intensifying efforts that — through rent subsidies, new construction, outreach and support services — got more than 14,000 people permanently off the streets last year.

Although this problem is huge, a lot of people and organizations come forward to help the people in need by carrying out campaigns to donate food, clothes and utilities. These kind of efforts make a lot of difference but they are not able to reach their full potential because their target audience does not know about the location and time of these events. I wanted to target this specific issue and provide a solution.

I was researching online and came across a few articles which talked about how popular smart phones were among the homeless community and served as a lifeline in times of distress. One of the USC press articles stated that homeless teens considered smart phones as important as food. This is why I decided to create an app where organizations/people who want to help the homeless community can post events and specify details so that this information can reach out to most people.

References:

* “L.A. County homelessness jumps a 'staggering' 23% as need far outpaces housing”-*The Los Angeles Times* (31 May, 2017)*.* [*https://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2015/oct/01/smartphones-are-lifeline-for-homeless-people*](https://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2015/oct/01/smartphones-are-lifeline-for-homeless-people)
* “Homeless teens consider smart phone as important as food”-USC Pressroom (21 December,2011) https://pressroom.usc.edu/homeless-teens-consider-smart-phone-as-important-as-food/
* “Smartphones are a lifeline for homeless people”-The guardian (1 October,2015)

<https://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2015/oct/01/smartphones-are-> lifeline-for-homeless-people

**App Description**

HelpOut is an android app which provides a platform to different organizations to post about their charity events targeted towards the homeless community. People can create various kinds type of the event, ranging from food drives to giving out medical supplies. There will also be an option for the users to RSVP to this event so the organizers can plan it out accordingly and buy supplies with respect to the number of attendees. This sort of an app will definitely help bridge the communication gap between the two parties and will ease out the process of planning out charity events.

**Key Features**

* Search for charity events through location(Zip code/City)
* View the specific details of an event.
* Users can RSVP to the event to help the organizers plan out.
* Organizers can create events and check the number of people who are attending the event.

**Target Audience**

Homeless community and low income groups

**Technology Items**

* Firebase

**Storage**

* Organizer Profiles: One of the tables would store all the accounts associated with different organizations.
* Event Profiles: Another table would store all the events, its details and the organizer information.

**Prototypes/Wireframes**



