

Small Gestures

1. Introduction

- Life would be a bit easier if we get help when needed. Friends and families play an important role for this. But not everyone is fortunate enough to have their friends and families close by. A convenient solution to this problem would be to get help from our neighbors and help them. This app would provide a platform to seek assistance from our neighbor, return the helping gesture when they need it, donate books, clothes and other items, organize community events.
- This app targets to build a supportive and giving community by:
 - a. Providing help to a patient resident
 - b. Helping neighbors in emergency situations
 - c. Helping less privileged kids
 - d. Organizing community events
- The values / benefits (tangible and intangible) this application can bring to a company/organization/end-user.

2. Expected List of Features

- User registration – This feature would capture details like user name, email, address, user's preferred area where he/she is willing to help, age, if patient, preferred time of the day, etc. These details would address the following:
 - a. User verification
 - b. Locate users by the address
 - c. Filtering out most preferred users who can help in various situations
- Seek help – Help can be sought in four main categories:
 - a. Patients help
 - b. Babies/Kids help
 - c. General help
 - d. Elderly help

Each of these categories will have multiple areas where help is needed, e.g. help areas for patient help are:

- i. Drop and pick up to a medical center
- j. Read
- k. Cook a meal
- l. Get groceries and daily utility items
- m. Mow lawns

Categories would be used to prioritize help needed requests. Help needed request will also capture the date and time when the help is needed.

- Arrange help – Once a help needed request is posted on the app, the app would search registered users to retrieve a list of most suitable persons. The searching would be done mainly on the below criterion:
 - a. Geolocation of the user who requested help
 - b. Category
 - c. Area where help needed
 - d. Time when help needed
 - A. Once the list of potential users who can help are fetched, emails would be sent to these users asking if their availability for providing assistance
 - B. If a user responds that he/she is willing to help, other users are sent emails that already a user is found for this request.
 - C. If none of the users in first mailing list responds within a certain time limit or none of users are available in that specific time, a new searching will take place in an expanded geolocation area and the new list of users would exclude the previous set of users.
 - D. The above set of steps would continue recursively until a match is found.
 - E. If no user is found who can help, the person who has created the help request is notified.
 - F. In case of patient help, links of volunteer organization who help patients would be sent for additional information.
- Donate items – Users would be post items they would like to donate others. A section of main page would feature the list of donatable items and details how to collect them. When a user would want to post a donation, following details would be captured:
 - i. Category of donated items
 - j. Brief description of donated items
 - k. Pictures if any
 - l. How to get these items if a user is interested

When a user logs in, donatable items would be displayed based on his/her registered location i.e. items available in near to user would be displayed at top of list.

Users would be able to filter these items based on category. Users would be able to set their preference for the categories. If a user has set their preferred category for donatable items, items belongs to the particular category would only be displayed.

Many a times we throw unused items without realizing that someone would be helped a great deal if they can have these items. This feature would address this issue. A specific scenario where this feature can add value would be sharing textbooks or other educational materials. Various age group of kids might reside in a community. If a student is no longer in need of textbooks and other educational materials, he/can can give away these items to less privileged students or students who don't mind using old items.

- Organize community events – This app would help in organizing community event by providing a collaboration space to capture various details of the event. To organize event, a user would register an event with the following details:
 - i. Event name
 - j. Purpose of the event

- k. Location
- l. Start date
- m. End date
- n. Email of at least two other registered users who would participate in this event.
- o. When the details of the event can be archived.

Once the above details are captured, emails would be sent to users mentioned in the event registration to get their consent about participation in the event.

After two of the members provide their consent, an event organization space would be allocated to the users participating in this event. The event organization space would have the following components:

- i. Name of event organizers name
- j. Event details
- k. List of tasks
- l. Issues or problems encountered
- m. Calendar to keep track of meetings, tasks and availability of participants
- n. Add more participant
- o. Participation request (when a user see the event and want to participate in the event organization)
- p. Cancel participation

Community events would be featured in the main page. When a user logs in, he/she would be able to see events taking place in their community.

Community event is great way of giving back to our society. It will be particular helpful for collecting items to send to people caught in natural disasters or people affected in wars or organizing a learning session for local kids.

- Carpooling – People interested to car pool can post details about their work location, timing to share daily commuting or a trip they are taking where they want to share with people planning to visit same destination location areas during same time.
- Advertisement – This app would have a feature to display advertisement from sponsors. The money received from the sponsors can be utilized in various community projects.

3. Market Survey

- After researching in the market, following websites are found with similar ideas:
 - a. NextDoor – User can post their needs, join in discussion and organize events.
 - b. Ioby – This app helps in organizing community projects.
 - c. Freecycle – This app helps users to donate items within nearby neighborhoods.
 - d. Curbed – This app provides a platform to share ideas about improving a city.
 - e. Scoop – It is a carpooling app. However, it does not provide car pooling option for a long distance trip.

4. References

- Nextdoor - <https://nextdoor.com>
- Ioby - <https://www.ioby.org>
- FreeCycle - <https://www.freecycle.org/>
- Curbed - <https://www.curbed.com/2016/9/22/13019420/urban-design-community-building-placemaking>
- Scoop - <https://www.takescoop.com/>