Project Name: _Community Helpers_ (or _BYU-I Skills Exchange_)

The Concept: A platform where users can post tasks they need help with (e.g., "Need help moving a couch" or "Tutor for CS 325") and others can volunteer.

Team 12 Names:

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Link Trello : https://trello.com/b/XhLjnPEn/communityhelperscse325team12

Git Project : https://github.com/diogorangel/CommunityHelpersCSE325Team12.git

Title : Community Helpers

Project Overview

Community Helpers is a web-based platform designed to bridge the gap between local residents who need assistance with small tasks and neighbors who are willing to volunteer their time. In many communities, elderly individuals or those with limited mobility struggle with everyday chores like grocery shopping, lawn care, or moving furniture, while many people looking to volunteer don't know where to start. Our application provides a centralized, easy-to-use hub to facilitate these local connections.

The target users for this application are two-fold: "Requesters" (individuals seeking help with specific tasks) and "Volunteers" (community members looking to offer their services). By focusing on hyper-local assistance, the app fosters a sense of community trust and social responsibility. What makes this idea valuable is its simplicity; unlike broad social media groups, this app is purpose-built for task management and community service, ensuring that requests don't get lost in a feed.

Project Scope

- **What's IN:**
    - User authentication and profile management.
    - A dashboard to view, create, and claim "Help Requests."
    - Category filtering (e.g., Yard Work, Tech Support, Groceries).
    - Status tracking (Pending, In-Progress, Completed).
    - Integration with a database to store real-time request data.

- **What's OUT:**
    - In-app real-time instant messaging (will use email/phone contact for now).

    - Payment processing or monetary transactions (the app is strictly for volunteering).

    - Background checks or formal verification of users.

    - Native iOS/Android mobile apps (it will be a responsive web app).

App Features

1. **User Authentication:** Users can create an account and log in securely.

2. **Profile Customization:** Users can set up a profile indicating if they are primarily a helper or a requester.

3. **Create Requests:** Users can post a request for help including a title, description, and category.

4. **Browse Tasks:** Users can view a list of open requests in their community.

5. **Claim Tasks:** Volunteers can "claim" a task to let the requester know help is on the way.

6. **Task Management:** Users can mark their own requests as "Completed" to remove them from the active list.

7. **Filter/Search:** Users can filter requests by category to find tasks that match their skills.

Technical Considerations

- **Data Storage:** We will use a database (likely MongoDB or Firebase) to store user profiles, active help requests, and task history.

- **User Accounts:** Yes, users will need accounts to prevent spam and allow for the tracking of claimed tasks.

- **External Services:** We plan to explore the Google Maps API for location-based sorting of tasks, though the MVP may rely on ZIP codes.

- **Device Compatibility:** The application will be a responsive web application built with a mobile-first approach, ensuring it works on desktops, tablets, and smartphones.

- **Basic Security:** We will implement secure password hashing (using Bcrypt) and session management to protect user data and ensure only authors can edit or delete their requests.

Next Leader : Diogo Rangel