# ONE LETTER ONE SMILE NGO - INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

THIS PRESENTATION HIGHLIGHTS MY INTERNSHIP
JOURNEY WITH ONE LETTER ONE SMILE NGO IN
FRANCE, A FULFILLING EXPERIENCE THAT ALLOWED ME
TO CONTRIBUTE TO A MEANINGFUL CAUSE.



## ONE LETTER ONE SMILE'S MISSION AND VALUES

 Mission: To bring joy and connection to isolated elderly people through personalized letters, fostering a sense of community and well-being across the globe. One goal – Create SMILES

#### Values:

#### SIMPLICITY

- Emphasize simplicity

and ease in all tasks,
from writing to
delivering letters.
- Aim to create a
pleasant experience
for everyone, including
our team.

#### **FLEXIBILITY**

- Focus on continuous improvement and innovation.
- Dedicated to bringing joy to seniors and exploring new methods to achieve this.

#### LOVE

- Quality over quantity,
   valuing genuine
   connections and
   teamwork.
- One heartfelt smile is more valuable than many superficial ones.

## COLLABORATIONS WITH SCHOOLS & CARE HOMES



1 Letter 1 Smile partners with schools that would like to send letters as a class and care homes that would like to receive letters for their residents.

#### MY ROLE AS AN INTERN

#### **Key Contributions:**

- Managed letter collection, Excel tasks, website maintenance, and event planning.
- Enhanced operational efficiency to support the organization's mission.





#### **SKILLS DEVELOPED**

- Enhanced skills in data management, project planning, communication, cross-cultural understanding, and emotional intelligence.
- Prepared for future roles involving diverse teams and complex project management.



#### THE IMPACT OF HANDWRITTEN LETTERS



- Vital connection to the outside world, enhancing emotional well-being.
- Combats social isolation, reducing risks of depression, cognitive decline, and physical issues.
- In nursing homes, these letters boost a sense of purpose and belonging, reminding the elderly they are cared for and remembered.

#### THE SOCIETAL IMPACT OF INTERGENERATIONAL CONNECTIONS

- Reducing Loneliness: Provides social interaction and companionship for the elderly.
- Promoting Empathy: Fosters empathy and compassion, leading to a more tolerant society.
- Bridging the Generation Gap: Encourages
   understanding and respect between age groups.
- Enhancing Civic Engagement: Boosts community involvement and social responsibility.



#### THE FUTURE OF ONE LETTER ONE SMILE



- 1. Global Expansion: Extend One Letter One Smile's impact by connecting generations across borders.
- 2. New Initiatives: Explore programs like adult pen pal partnerships and intergenerational volunteer projects.
- 3. Impact Assessment: Use long-term studies to measure the program's effects on participants.

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## **CHALLENGES AND OVERCOMING THEM**

- 1. Language Barrier: I overcame communication challenges as a non-native French speaker by learning basic phrases, using gestures, and leveraging translation tools.
- 2. Emotional Challenges: Working with lonely elderly individuals was tough, but the joy and gratitude they expressed kept me motivated and positive.



#### HIGHLIGHTS & MEMORABLE MOMENTS



- Seeing the joy and excitement in the children's eyes as they participated in the programs.
- Witnessing the positive impact of the NGO's efforts, bringing smiles, hope and connection to isolated elderly people.

### **PERSONAL REFLECTIONS**

- Rewarding Experience: My time at One Letter One Smile was deeply fulfilling, especially witnessing the joy and gratitude of the elderly receiving handwritten letters.
- **Human Connection**: I learned the profound importance of human connection and the power of simple acts of kindness.
- Empathy and Compassion: The experience instilled a deep sense of empathy and compassion in me.



## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE INTERNS



- Embrace Cultural Diversity: Be open to different cultures and perspectives, fostering respectful communication and collaboration.
- Plan Ahead: Plan tasks and events effectively, managing time and resources efficiently to maximize impact.
- Seek Guidance: Don't hesitate to ask for guidance and support from mentors and colleagues, utilizing their expertise to enhance your learning.



## CONCLUSION

My internship at One Letter One Smile was incredibly rewarding. I'm grateful for the chance to contribute to a meaningful cause and gain valuable insights into non-profit work. This experience not only enhanced my professional skills but also deepened my appreciation for human connection and compassion.

