The Watershed Project

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Client Introduction

The Watershed Human and Community Development Agency, Inc. is known as the World's First Social Hospital. Watershed is a non-profit organization founded in 1978 by Rev. Hezekiah D. Stewart, Jr. and the Mt. Nebo African Methodist Episcopal Church. The agency serves all people who comes seeking service to the best of their ability. The Watershed works with city, state and federal programs to provide a wide range of programs and services to the public. The Watershed Philosophy believes in helping people help themselves. The mission is to provide services that not only help people in the moment but provide skills that could help over time.

The clients of the customer can receive a variety of services. They offer a food pantry a few times a week, in addition to the holiday. They offer job placement services, utility payment, bus fare assistance, and other things that may fall under children and family services. Every year the Watershed services over 1000 families for Thanksgiving and Christmas combined. They provide toys to families who cannot afford them for the holidays.

The agency is small, employing seven people. The agency depends a lot on the help of volunteers and the people completing community service during their busiest moments. Carla Wright runs the business end of the Watershed as the fiscal manager, and the other employees head up the many programs offered to their customers. There may be a few challenges facing the Watershed that may affect the success of the project. The organizations budget for this project is tight. With the Watershed being a non-profit organization, the funding can provide limitations. The staff is not tech-savvy. They may struggle some with transitioning from paper to electronic. More information can be found in Appendix 1 of this report. It is a company brochure. They also have a website at www.thewatershed1.com.

Analysis Work

A. Problem Facing the Client

The Watershed wants to acquired data electronically to help construct reports to receive more funding. Currently, the Watershed is lacking the capability to track, display, and record all this data electronically.

B. Current State of Problem

The Watershed is currently taking data from the clients via paper applications. The applications typically collect the demographics of the clients that they serve. It can sometimes feature secure information like social security numbers and addresses. There really is not a structured process and the organization is buried in half-filed paperwork. There are four employees that complete intake paperwork with client. The paperwork is then funneled to the fiscal manager, who puts the paperwork into a reporting system on some programs that require that, and the paper is copied and tucked somewhere for their records. There is no real filing system. It is hard to track the data and make reports. Their current state of technology is in dire need of an upgrade. The Watershed has outdated

computers and no company emails. There is no organizational data tracker or electronic filing available at the Watershed currently.

C. <u>Desired Future State</u>

The Watershed is looking for an upgrade to their website. The updated website would allow the Watershed to display more about the organization. The website could be the first point of contact. The customer will have the option to fill out their demographics on the website and it will collect the data in a spreadsheet. The clients will also have the option of setting up an appointment with the staff that they need to speak with.

D. Options for Solution

There are two options that could be used to solve the challenges that the client is facing. Microsoft Access and Google Suite are both good options for collecting and sorting data. Microsoft Access is a good solid database, but the software would have to be bought and would be almost one person oriented. Google Suites will provide all the tools the Watershed would need to track and display data for a small amount of money. It also allows the employees to share documents and to work on them simultaneously.

Project Planning

Design and development phase will start in the Fall semester for Capstone II.

Appendix

YOU can help WATERSHED help others by . . .

Donating food / clothing

Biblical story of the Hebrew exodus

Watershed's name is based on the

Contributing money

Volunteering time or services

Name

Address

The Jewish people were transformed (a watershed event) from their suffering under bondage in Egypt when they crossed the Red Sea and began anew as the wandering tribe that later became the nation of Israel. Watershed hopes to transform those it serves, allowing them to build lives of productivity and fulfillment in today's world.



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For further information contact Mrs. Snider, 501-378-0176

Amount of Donation \$

Type of Donation

World's
First
Social
Hospital"

WATERSHED
HUMAN AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, INC.

BACKGROUND

Watershed was founded in 1978 by Rev. Hezekiah D. Stewart, Jr. and the Mt. Nebo African Methodist Episcopal Church. Now located in the former Gillam Park School building, the Agency serves all people who come to its doors, but with special focus on those who live in the College Station and Granite Mountain neighborhoods of Little Rock and the Sweet Home and Wrightsville communities in Pulaski County.

Watershed works with the City, County, State and the Federal governments, as well as with the business and financial community, schools and colleges and local philanthropic and non-profit groups to facilitate and encourage support for Arkansas' neediest.

PHILOSOPHY

Watershed believes in helping people help themselves, building on their gifts and strengths to address their greatest needs. Our mission statement is of "feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, housing the homeless, cheering the fallen, providing jobs for the jobless, administering to those in crisis and encouraging economic development and self-sufficiency."



SOCIAL HOSPITAL SERVICES

ARKANSAS BIRTHING PROJECT

Women take responsibility for their own lives and their newborns through support from volunteer mentors known as 'sister-friends'.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Full child-care services, including early learning programs and quality outdoor play facilities. Parenting classes offer training in role responsibility, day-to-day coping skills, discipline, family growth planning and social enhancement.

YOUTH SERVICES

Throughout the years a number of efforts have expanded possibilities for young people. Included are: Get Ready, Watershed's own at-risk youth effort; Helping Youth Help Themselves, a state initiative for at-risk children age 12 to 17 that enhances academic skills through field trips, motivational speakers and computer-based learning; the Our Club initiative of Pulaski County to provide comprehensive youth services as an alternative to gangs; and Male/Female Responsibility, an on-going school-based behavior modification program. Watershed provides both Summer and after-school programs for neighborhood youth.

FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE

Single Males Ages 15-35

OUR CLUB

After school Youth Program Ages 6-12

CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES/ FAMILY RESOURCE

Safety-net programs provide access to food and clothing, utility assistance, transportation and special outreach services for persons with disabilities. Holiday food and toy baskets are a Watershed tradition.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Programs help individuals and families understand how to use tools that already are available: inter-generational learning, access to GED and tutoring as needed for academic advancement.

WORKING TO FIND WORK

Job guidance, counseling, assisting persons to become gainfully employed; temporary labor services; career development; learning new skills in money management, home ownership, handling crises, problem solving, tax returns; computer and web-based competency.

DISASTER RELIEF SERVICES

Tornado emergency assistance; facilitate housing redevelopment; distribute fans to elderly during Summer heat.

OTHER ON-GOING SERVICES

- Friends and Family of Incarcerated Persons (helping families deal with problems when their loved ones are in jail or prison.)
- Community socialization (special celebrations; community get-togethers)
- Health Promotion / Advocacy (AIDS awareness; substance abuse counseling; promoting nutrition and fitness; liaison with the College Station Clinic).
- Windsor Medi-Care Extra