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Vision Statement Assignment

SmileU is a breakthrough idea that serves to provide volunteers for community service events hosted by non-profit organizations. People today are increasingly aware and are willing to participate in volunteer work but don't know how or where to get started. SmileU essentially bridge the information gap between potential volunteers and get them to events hosted by non-profit organization.

Q. 1: What's a problem you've noticed that someone might be encountering in the world?

While the world is increasing aware of activities and actions that strives to make the world a better place, there is an information gap between participants and organizations. While volunteering events are searchable and locatable on the internet, it is not always easy for those less technology and web savvy, thereby decreasing the full potential of the amount of service achievable.

Q. 2: What evidence do you have about this problem—did you read it in the news, see it on the street, or read it in the research? What are the details of the problem (e.g., how often does it happen? To whom? Why?)?

A non-profit organization called St. Anthony's foundation located in the city of San Francisco provides soup kitchen for those in need no questions asked. While volunteer participants remain steady, there have been times especially during non-holiday when the amount of volunteers needed weren't met. And due to the lack of knowledge to bridge the gap from the organizations to the community, the organization operated at a lower performance level as a result.

This information was personally obtained in-person during a Hackathon I attended in San Francisco a couple months back. **Cite sources for your evidence.**

[1] St. Anthony Foundation, Wikipedia (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Anthony_Foundation)

[2] St. Anthony's Foundation, Home Page (https://www.stanthonysf.org)

Q. 3: Tell a brief story of what happens when someone encounters this problem in real life/real time.

When this problem is encountered, the lack of participants makes it difficult to serve the population that needs this support from the foundation. This could lead to some people not receiving the help needed. This is a severe problem as it could mean they won't be able to receive a meal or the equipment they need. This could also lead to volunteers working overtime. Not only would be tired but they would also be less-inclined to participate in the future.

Q. 4: How might a software system or application affect/solve the problem? That is, when, where, and how does the software system enter the problem storyline (Q. 3)?

A software that source all non-profit organizations and have they update their volunteer needs in real time could bridge the information gap between the organization and volunteers. When an organization is in need of volunteers, they could actively update the number of volunteers needed, the number of volunteers currently attending if in progress and whether they need more volunteers. This software also allows volunteers to find events near them that needs their assistant.

Q. 5: What are the features of the system that make it so effective or useful? (For example, how does this system make a task or activity more efficient or easier?)

One of the feature would be the ability for organizations to post their need in real-time, allowing potential volunteers to come once they know there is a need of them.

Another feature would allow potential volunteers to locate events nearby where they can participate.

This software also crowd source all the non-profit organizations and have all volunteer events presented to the public in a single page that is easily sorted and digested by the general public at ease.

Q. 6: Name at least three things a user should be able to do with the system you're proposing? (For example, for a particular application the user should be able to (1) filter bad websites, (2) in fewer than 30 seconds, and (3) highlight accurate information about a particular topic.)

There will filters provided to sort by distance, organization rating and urgency. For example if an organization is in dire need of help, they could toggle it as "urgent" so people will be more inclined to help out at that particular event in a more timely manner.

Another function is for the software to display the list of organizations and their information that provides their events, contact information and their hours. This could be helpful for people who are in need of assistance to locate them as well.

Another feature would be how users can mobile check-in or indicate their interest of attending, this affect real time need for a particular event.

Q. 7. Describe what would happen if the software system/application were implemented and worked—how would the world and user be changed for the better?

The rate of volunteering participants will increase. This is crucial since people are increasingly aware and are willing to participate in volunteer work but don't know how or where to get started. It essentially bridges the information gap between potential volunteers and get them to events hosted by non-profit organization.

References:

[1] St. Anthony Foundation, Wikipedia (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Anthony_Foundation)

[2] St. Anthony's Foundation, Home Page (https://www.stanthonysf.org)