



The Problem-Solution-Impact Model for Social Action Projects

Below are examples of existing and potential Social Action Projects to give you an idea of how you might identify and create your Social Action Project:

1. SAMPLE PROJECT: SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS INTEGRATION

Problem: Special needs students in schools in Bosnia/Herzegovina are not matriculated with other students and as a result the student population is segregated and they want to know one another.

Solution: Students of different religious backgrounds including Muslim, Croats and Serbs, "children of war," engaged civic leaders and with hundreds of signatures from citizens supporting their petition to integrate special needs students into mainstream classes and provide necessary equipment (hearing devices, wheelchairs, etc.).

Impact: The local government has accepted the team's petition and is considering revising the regulations regarding students with special needs. Students realized how much they have in common with one another and worked together to make change in their community and at school. No money was needed for this project but many hours of research and negotiating by the students created the social change. The special needs students in their school and their parents feel like they have a voice in the school community.

2. SAMPLE PROJECT: ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Problem: English, as a second language can be a barrier for learning among elementary children in many communities across the United States.

Solution: Hispanic high school students came together and started a tutoring club for the local elementary school. They played games in English and tutored younger students in English.

Impact: The level of reading increased for the elementary students and they increased their proficiency and communication skills. Many community members were engaged in the process and the high school students learned teaching skills to help them earn credits towards their graduation and entrance to college.

3. SAMPLE PROJECT: TEENS & OPIATES

Problem: Teens are taking opiates from their family or friends medicine cabinets and ending up in the emergency room.

Solution: A team links to the local peer-to-peer counseling organization and follows the program, adding a new level by creating a teen hot line for their community and creating public service announcements on their school radio broadcast.

Impact: Increased awareness by the local high schools, students, their families and a direct relationship with the local hospital emergency room director. As a result, the hospital is seeing more awareness by students and over time hopes to measure the impact of the program by fewer young patients entering the emergency room.

4. **SAMPLE PROJECT: LACK OF ACCESS TO MEDICAL CARE**

Problem: Expectant mothers in a village in Kenya are not able to get to the local clinic on foot and infant mortality is high in their village.

Solution: A team can apply for a grant to pay for bicycles, replacement parts and tools and start a delivery service by canvassing the village and offering rides to the local clinic.

Impact: Potentially, not all the mothers will be able to use the service, but measuring the outcome will give a result of what happened and what other uses the bicycle shop will have for the village.

5. **SAMPLE PROJECT: LACK OF ORGANIC FRUITS AND VEGETABLES**

Problem: Students at a local high school eat lunch in the cafeteria but some are allergic to strawberries sprayed with pesticides and many know that pesticides can cause cancer. Many of the students want to have organic fruits and vegetables served in their cafeteria.

Solution: A team can come together and research the local suppliers of food service at the school for fruits and vegetables. They research the cost difference between organic and non-organic and petition the school administrators and the local farm supplier to work together to come up with a better solution in supplying the school.

Impact: The results could be a healthier school community if the students succeed in getting the school to make the change and if the students eat the fresh and organic food. An increased awareness about local and sustainable farming could also be an outcome.

6. **SAMPLE PROJECT: TEEN DEPRESSION**

Problem: A local high school in California has 3 teen suicides in one year and the community is devastated.

Solution: A team comes together to develop a crisis intervention program with local psychologist as a Mentor; and implement a comprehensive, community wide awareness campaign; including a fundraiser at the local community center inviting teens and their parents to a barbecue and dance band. The message is sent out virally on YouTube and on a created Facebook page with interviews of teens talking about related problems that cause depression that include bullying, prejudice and drunk driving.

Impact: The team hopes to reduce the number of suicides in their high school and to leave a legacy of awareness for other students. In order to measure, the team identifies a very specific goal at the start of the campaign and what the outcome is at the end of the school year.