

Public Affairs Grant Fund Transfer Request, “Into the Streets”

“Into the Streets”

Into the Streets Narrative Proposal

Abstract

Into the Streets is an event that is without a doubt, public affairs oriented. This year the campus volunteer center has strived to implement the public affairs mission by creating monthly projects, getting the word out about volunteer service, creating a task force, and coordinating a large service wide event that would involve the participation of the entire campus.

Being the first year that Missouri State University has implemented Into the Streets, it was a great success. The evaluations gathered revealed that despite the weather, students enjoyed being a part of a large group of volunteers and completing their service projects. Since completing the event, I have gained insightful feedback on what to build upon, change, and develop. The next event will be bigger, better, and make an even greater impact on the community.

Description

Into the Streets is a national volunteer program designed to introduce more people to community service. It will also provide a learning experience that will challenge people on campus to volunteer on a regular basis.

On April 14th, 2007, approximately one-hundred students entered the community at several different agencies to volunteer and make a huge difference in the Springfield community. We served ten agencies and provided teams to carry out various projects at their respective placements. Participants included members of student organizations, clubs, alums, and staff.

The goal of Into the Streets is to strengthen student capacities to help solve problems in society which will foster the public affairs mission. This goal will be accomplished through sustained partnerships with many individuals and institutions in addition to the participation of the Missouri State University Campus.

“Community outreach through public affairs research centers, adult continuing education, distance learning courses, public broadcasting, and telecommunication linkages with other universities will use faculty expertise to address state and community problems. Missouri State’s commitment to its statewide mission also is reflected in campus lectures on public issues in which the community is invited to participate. The challenge presented by a focus on public affairs, however, is not just about what kind of curriculum, community service or public forums should be in place. It is about discovering solutions to the problems that all citizens face as members of a democratic society in a world shared by many.”

This excerpt taken from the Office of Public Affairs website is describing that outside experience gained by students through direct exposure to community problems will no doubt introduce students to society and its reality.

Into the Streets served ten different community agencies that each served a different purpose. For example, Community Partnership of the Ozarks (CPO) hosted two neighborhood clean-ups that volunteers were able to assist with. These clean-ups allow low-income households, the elderly and other disadvantaged populations to come and drop off their large trash items (i.e. old mattresses, old couch, etc.) at a centrally located place.

Our volunteers were able to see that everyone doesn't have resources right at their feet. They were able to serve a population that desperately needs assistance and learn about a subculture different from their own.

Though briefly discusses in the description of Into the Streets, further elaboration on the objectives are as follows:

- To allow students to engage in service projects that will broaden their thinking
- To encourage student to participate in various community events and in turn become more civi minded
- To stimulate the involvement of Missouri State Campus by providing an event in which everyone is invited to serve their community and achieve one common goal

Lisa Taylor
Campus Volunteer Center
Missouri State University
April 25, 2007

Public Affairs Committee
Missouri State University

To Whom It may Concern:

This is a report of the cost of Into the Streets 2007. This amount served approximately 100 volunteers. We expected 180 volunteers and ordered enough food for 200 volunteers. However, due to the weather and cancellations during the week prior to the even we lost around 80 volunteers.

2007 Proposal

Item Requested		Estimated cost
Breakfast (provided by Sodexo)	Bagels, donuts, fruit and juice	\$278.13
Lunch (provided by Sodexo)	Sandwiches, chips, soda	\$306.25
T-shirts	\$5/ shirt for 400 people	\$1000.00
Recognition for ITS committee	9 decals, candy, cups	\$34.18
	Total	\$1618.56
	Tax	Included in listed price
	Grand Total	\$1618.56
	Misc.	Total doesn't include publicity

*Publicity costs were approximately \$200 and were funded by the Office of Student Activities, but will not be at the next Into the Streets Event

2008 Proposal

Item Requested		Estimated cost
Breakfast (provided by Sodexo)	Bagels, donuts, fruit and juice	\$556.26
Lunch (provided by Sodexo)	Sandwiches, chips, soda	\$612.50
T-shirts	\$5/ shirt for 400 people	\$2000.00
Recognition for ITS committee	9 decals, candy, cups	\$68.36
Publicity	Posters & Fliers	\$400.00
Total		\$3637.12
Tax		Included in listed price
Grand Total		\$3637.12
Misc.		

I am requesting almost double the amount we spent this year due to to student interest during its first year. I have also included recognition gifts (at minimum cost) for the planning committee as well as publicity costs.

We believe that we will get more participation due to the time of year we are planning the event (September 2007) and we want to be prepared.

Any money not spent will be gladly returned.

Thank you for considering this proposal. Please call with any questions.

Sincerely,

Lisa Taylor
 Campus Volunteer Center
 Graduate Assistant
 836-5784

Into the Steets Evaluation

2007-2008

Background

Into the Streets was held on September 22, 2007 from 1pm-6pm. Sign in and announcements were held in the PSU Theater.

Approximately 500 volunteers participated in this year's event while over 1,700 hours of volunteer service were completed. Twenty community agencies were served and 28 projects were carried out by Missouri State students. Out of the 28 projects 17 were carried out to completion.

Approximately 250 students were involved in the evaluation process. Responses are based on the overall response of the students as a whole. Students were asked for positive and negative feedback. In addition, I received feedback from several agencies that were served and all responses were positive.

This even was funded by the Office of Public Affairs and the Extended Campus and the Public Affairs Grant.

Participating Agencies

**Number in parenthesis signifies total amount of projects carried out at that agency*

Champion Athletes of the Ozarks

Habitat for Humanity (3)

Council of the Churches (2)

Hand-n-Hand

Big Brothers Big Sisters

Junior Achievement

Salvation Army

SW Center for Independent Living

Boys and Girls Club

United Way

Ozark Food Harvest

Greater Ozarks Audubon Society

Ozark Greenways (2)

Community Partnership of the Ozarks (2)

The Kitchen

History Museum

Family Crisis Center (2)

Lost and Found

Victory Mission

Potter's House

Evaluation

Length of Event

The majority of volunteers felt the length of the event was perfect. A small amount felt it was too long.

Was volunteer placement conducive to volunteer's needs (i.e. availability of restrooms, safe working conditions?)

The majority of volunteers felt safe and expressed that there were restrooms readily available. A small amount said restrooms were not readily available (I took note of where these locations were in order to plan accordingly for next year).

Was the date and time convenient?

Every volunteer said the date and time were vary convenient. The afternoon is ideal and 2-4 hours is perfect.

Would you be interested in participating in Into the Streets next year?

Every volunteer said they would be interested in participating next year.

Agency Feedback

I received nothing but positive feedback from community agencies in regards to how pleased they were with the help they received from volunteers.

They expressed the hard work the students put in despite the heat. In addition, they were impressed with the number of volunteers that served their agency.

Reflection

What type of impact do you feel you made on your community?

A large and positive impact was the general consensus. Most volunteers felt they really gave it their all and participated whole heartedly.

Did you learn anything about yourself today?

A moderate amount of volunteers felt they learned something about themselves while others did not. Many volunteers were freshmen being introduced to the idea of service. Many expressed that they didn't know they would be working so hard and that their work seemed to really help. Some learned to serve the homeless, while others worked in the environment helping to clean up trails.

Overall, Into the Streets was a huge success. The event served multiple agencies and gave many students a new experience. The goal of into the streets is to strengthen student capacities to help solve the problems in society which directly fosters the public affairs mission. This goal was met and far exceeded.