Community Service Presentation

Festival of Trees

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and Cameron Solomon

Period 2
Where did we volunteer?

We volunteered at the Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida Festival of Trees.
Where and When?

- The Goodwill Industries Southwest Florida Festival of Trees occurred at Sydney and Berne Davis Art Center in Downtown Fort Myers.
- It was December 3\textsuperscript{rd} – 7\textsuperscript{th}, 2014.
Volunteer Day 1: Setting Up the Trees

On Sunday, November 30th, we put up the Christmas trees. The trees were fake so we built them scratch and placed in sections. Before we worked on them they looked like they were lifeless. We then decorated two trees that were next to Santa. This took several hours to do since we did a perfect symmetrical spiral down the trees with colored ornaments.
Volunteer Day 2: Letters to Santa

On Friday, December 4th, we managed the Letter to Santa table by helping kids write their letter. Then, we helped kids send the letters to Santa. We also stood near the entrance handing out voting ballots for the best trees. We also handed out pamphlets for the other events hosted and funded at the Festival of Trees.
Volunteer Day 3: Children’s Workshop

On Sunday, Dec. 6th, we helped with the Children’s Workshop during the Family Fun Day Event. Before it began, we set up tables for the Workshop sections. During the event, we passed out bags to each child that came into the workshop. The bags had elf hats and coloring books. Afterwards, we helped put chairs and tables away.
Who does the Festival of Trees help?

The Festival of Trees raises money for the missions and programs supported by Goodwill that help people with disabilities. Some of those programs are Trailways Camp, Pathways to Opportunity Adult Day Training Program, Job-Link Centers, High School/High Tech, Four Wheels for Work, MicroEnterprise Institute, Housing and Transportation Assistance.
The Programs

The Trailways Camp – provides a fun experience for adults with disabilities a week long camp.

Pathways to Opportunity Adult Day Training Program – Provides adults with disabilities a meaningful day to learn life and employability skills.

Housing – Provides adult with disabilities and disadvantages affordable and specially equipped housing.

The Secure Shred program employs people with disabilities while helping the community by offering secure shred services. Paper is shredded and baled. The bales of shredded paper are sold to various organizations, like Pet Kingdom who use it for their puppies to go to the bathroom on.
I thought that the Festival of Trees was an amazing experience. I also found that the event had a setting and atmosphere for the soon to come holiday. I also enjoyed helping the community and setting up the event. I felt good helping a group of adults with disabilities write letters to Santa and they were so thankful.
Goodwill Festival of Trees was very fun. It was a great way to learn about how to help people. It helped me learn a lot about teamwork. I also learned what it is liked to work at a job.
I had a great time and it was kind of fun. I enjoyed decorating all of the trees and other things it was a very good experience. It felt good knowing that what I did was for a good cause. I met a lot of nice people. I enjoyed working with other people and getting to know them. Overall it was a fun and interesting experience and I would do it again if I could.
The End