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Fall 2022

## **Glenns Ferry Animal Shelter**

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Glens Ferry Animal Shelter

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Author Note

This project was completed for the Bachelor of Applied Science Department of Interdisciplinary Professional Studies at Boise State University

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### **Abstract**

My capstone project was an action-project. During the development of this project, I partnered with the Glens Ferry, ID, animal shelter. My goal was to help this small town in Idaho with its animal shelter because it relies 100% on donations to care for its dogs. I was saddened to hear that the shelter was having trouble feeding the dogs, so I decided to help by collecting food, toys, and dog supplies. Aside from asking family, friends, and coworkers for donations, I also contacted local Zamzows pet and gardening stores for donations of food and dog supplies. Also, I decided to hold a fundraiser where I sold tamales to raise money to buy beds and blankets for the winter.

*Keywords:* Rural shelters, dogs, care

## **Section 1: Introduction to your Capstone Project**

The Glens Ferry animal shelter is located in Idaho. They take dogs surrendered by their owners or that animal control finds and needs help, and they are a no-kill shelter. I was saddened when I heard the story about this shelter struggling to feed the dogs it currently houses. This shelter relies 100% on donations. As soon as I informed my daughter and husband about the shelter, they responded positively by saying we should donate. I was happy to hear my daughter, who loves animals, say that she wanted to be part of the project and that we needed to help. Having decided to help the shelter, I contacted Jackie, the shelter's manager, and asked her what I could do to assist.

## **Section 2: Elements coming together**

### **Innovative Approach**

I am trying something new for this project, something I never experienced before, and it's allowing me to meet new people and help the community in new ways. I am combining and applying two ideas simultaneously to achieve one goal. I decided to organize a fundraising campaign and collect donations. To make life better for the dogs at the shelter, I intend to collect as many supplies as possible. In this project, I am attempting something new, something that I have never done before, and it is allowing me to meet new people and make new contacts, allowing me to help the community. I sent out an email to my friends and coworkers for the fundraising. I let them know about the project that I was working on. I told them about the Glens Ferry animal shelter. I shared with them that I would have a tamales sale to raise money to buy supplies for the shelter. I told them I would use my money to buy everything needed for the tamales. I will also make the tamales with my mother's help, and all the money raised will

be used to purchase beds, supplies to make blankets, and supplies to make treats for the dogs. For supplies donations, I shared a post on Facebook, which my sister and some of her friends shared. Thanks to that post and emails, people I had never met asked me how they could help. With my sister's Facebook, I shared my contact information so people could get a hold of me.

### **Emotional Intelligence**

This project aims to demonstrate my self-awareness, empathy, and feelings about animals. When I share my project with others, having self-awareness helps me have more self-confidence. Self-awareness allows me to focus on myself and how my actions can help or affect others. This action project has allowed me to establish relationships with people from different backgrounds in the community. The feedback I received from Jackie allowed me to make the project much easier and more meaningful for me. "We want to fully thank you for all the work and donations you have given us. You never know how much you have helped our shelter and these animals. It makes their stay more comfortable. We had some very happy dogs as we unloaded toys, treats, and beds. They begged each treat as we pulled out. Thank you again! It's people like you that make our shelters better." (Shenk, Jackie. November 21, 2022)

Increasing awareness of small rural animal shelters in the valley is the purpose of this action project. Rural areas have difficulty getting help, which is what I want to convey to my audience. My goal is to contribute to some people's lack of knowledge about animals in animal shelters. It is crucial that others are aware of the services needed and the importance of our contributions to the rural shelters.

## **Creative Thinking**

The first thing was identifying my goal, and finding ways to promote my project was much easier once I knew what I wanted to do. The second step was contacting the animal shelter I wanted to help. I needed to find out what supplies they needed and how many animals they were housing and move from there. Then I created a plan, shared my idea, and took action. Using my new networking skills and technical skills, along with the old-fashioned word of mouth, I asked for help from the community. To organize a fundraiser sale, I used my knowledge of how to cook Mexican food. All my coworkers showed interest in my project, and some asked me if they could forward my email to their friends and family (that was great). I also posted on Facebook, which was re-shared, and people contacted me because they wanted to help. I reached out to two big stores, and one responded to me and let me know they would like to donate to my project. All the money raised from the tamales' sale was used for dog supplies.

My approach is unique because I was transparent with my sponsors from the beginning. I explained why I chose the project. I was able to communicate with stakeholders who only speak English as well as those who only speak Spanish, and I used my technology knowledge.

## **Your Innovative Solution**

Aside from sending emails to my coworkers and organizing a tamale sale, I also shared a Facebook post with friends and family. Reaching out to Zamzow was imperative. I let my stakeholders know about my goal and my minimum goal. In addition, I discussed what the shelter needed most, so I could ensure everything was provided. The result was amazing. My stakeholders wanted to help and donate supplies. My project interested them all. Through my

technology skills, I found more efficient ways to reach a wider audience. Being bilingual, I could communicate with people who only spoke Spanish and English.

### **Section 3: Results**

Having been able to partner with the Zamzows company, get individual donations from family members, coworkers, and friends, and sell tamales, I was able to donate over 2600 pounds of dog food, 50 pounds of dog treats, and several bags of toys, beds, and blankets for the animals in the shelter so that they would have a comfortable stay until they found their forever homes.

As a result, the shelter no longer has to worry about feeding the dogs they house. Zamzow will receive credit for donating three pallets of dog food that cannot be resold because they were returned or slightly damaged or open bags that have been resealed. Those who contributed to the project had the opportunity to help other dogs other than their own and show their love for animals. Some of my coworkers told me they felt happy knowing they would benefit other dogs by donating dog supplies they no longer needed after their furry friend passed away.

### **Section 4: Conclusion**

I chose to partner with the Glens Ferry animal shelter as the subject of my capstone project. What can I do to help the Glens Ferry animal shelter? For my project, I decided to try something completely different. I wanted to do something that would benefit the community and would allow me to utilize the new skills I have acquired through my MDS classes. I was able to raise \$240 from the tamales sale. I used that money to buy cooling beds, waterproof blankets, and dog treats. From the donations, I collected an estimated 2600 LBS of food, 50 LBS of dog

treats, several bags of toys, and warm beds. My delivery of food and dog supplies will last the shelter through the winter months. Feeding the dogs at this shelter is 100% dependent on donations. Two of the dogs in the shelter were adopted this week, and the shelter was able to open a pet food pantry to help the Glenns Ferry community.

In conclusion, I collected enough food and supplies to last the shelter through the winter months. 2600 LBS of food, about 50 LBS of dog treats, and plenty of toys and blankets, all possible with donations from family, friends, coworkers, and Zamzows.

The final results were far greater than I anticipated, and the support I received was outstanding. I was surprised by the outcome and as well as all of my stakeholders. Several members of the community of Glenns Ferry commented that the donation I made to the shelter was a blessing for the animals.

For my next project, I will reach out to all 180 of my coworkers and maybe create a website dedicated to the project and pay attention to the cost of supplies.

## **Section 5: Appendix**

Actual project (pictures, training documents, etc.)

[Reyna Riemenapp Actual Capstone Pictures](#)



### References

- <https://www.facebook.com/GlennsFerryAnimalShelter/>
- (J. Shenk, personal communication September 21, 2022, through November 21, 2022)
- (M. Sass, personal communication September 21, 2022)
- (A. Gregory, personal communication October 20, 2022)