

## Legacy Project Summary

The location that my group chose to use for the legacy project is The Dwelling Place. The Dwelling Place offers services for those who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk. We chose The Dwelling Place because there is a prominent homeless population located in Danville and there are many people who are at risk of becoming homeless in Danville as well. I think there is a negative stigma surrounding people experiencing homelessness and providing help for them. That is why I think volunteering at places like The Dwelling Place is important, as it allows you to make a meaningful impact on the care these individuals receive and provide them with the necessary services and supplies.

The Dwelling Place is in the basement of a church and is easily accessible. They refer to those who come in for their services as “neighbors.” They are open only on Mondays and Fridays and offer lunches to the neighbors who come in. They have a hygiene pantry where they can give free hygiene supplies to those in need. They also provide free donated clothes, blankets, and other essential items that people may need. Their location also provides the neighbors with a shower room and a laundry room. While volunteering, I helped distribute supplies that neighbors had requested if they were available. I also help organize donated items in their hygiene pantry and snack area. I also sorted through the donated clothes and organized them in their designated places.

During my time volunteering here, I had the opportunity to experience and interact with individuals who are part of this vulnerable population. I never interacted with those who are experiencing homelessness or volunteered to help at shelters or services that aid those experiencing homelessness. I think that many people believe that individuals who are experiencing homelessness are due to a substance addiction and that it is the fault of the

individual that they were going through this. However, there are numerous reasons why someone may be at risk or experiencing homelessness. Whatever the reason may be, I believe it does not exclude them from receiving services to help them. I think the services provided by organizations like The Dwelling Place have a big impact on these individuals. Not only do they provide these individuals with basic necessities, but they also offer them a safe place where they can come and not be judged for their experiences. The Dwelling Place is making a difference in the lives of these individuals and helping the Danville community, and volunteering here was a great experience. I'm glad we chose them for our legacy project and hope this project will bring more awareness of The Dwelling Place, so other students can volunteer here and help make a difference in the community.