

Tracy Donaldson  
Legacy Project Summary for E-Portfolio

The Dwelling Place in Danville, Illinois, because it is an excellent place for helping those in need. It offers a daytime shelter with a meal, free hygiene items, companionship, and homes for displaced families for a limited time. I feel a sense of compassion for individuals experiencing homelessness because I know that life can be tricky sometimes and put you in situations that you never thought you would be in. I also know that mental health can be a reason why someone may be homeless, and I am very empathetic to mental health as it has impacted my life in different ways.

During my service hours, I contributed to the Dwelling Place by packing lunches, passing out lunches, handing out hygiene items, taking inventory of food items, and going through donation items. I could also converse with several individuals and provide a lending ear during my time. I built connections with the volunteers who shared values similar to mine. I learned that volunteering can be a rewarding experience, and by giving back to my community, I can raise awareness of the homeless situation in the area.

Working with The Dwelling Place did not necessarily change my feelings or attitude about the homeless population. Still, it did make me more aware of how many homeless people have mental health conditions. Many of these mental health conditions are most likely undiagnosed due to the lack of health care received. It would be ideal if there could be more funding for health care for the homeless and underserved. As American citizens, it should be a given that everyone is cared for equally regardless of income status, and mental health needs to be a priority.

