LIAISON REPORT

AGENCY: ____Volunteer Center of Story County_____ LIAISON: _____Nikki Fischer

1. Need for Program. Describe who the target population is and whether their numbers are increasing or decreasing. Indicate the source of this information. Also, indicate how the program/service is different and how it is similar to others and what would happen if the program/service ceased to exist. List the priorities established by ASSET Funders, which the programming addresses. **...**

___**This program targets young to old. They are a volunteer program that will help place you with a program that you would enjoy volunteering for and an event that would interest youyou're your volunteer wants. They are involved with 'Points of Light' which is a company that is research-based program that helps to transform the organization to top nonprofits in volunteer management. They have continued with this program and also helped others to become a part of this process to help their volunteer programs. They showed an increase with volunteers with this program. They showed in their board meeting that there are more involved in volunteerism with COVID than ever before. They also showed that more people are involved in the election than before. This is with all generations but mostly seen an increase in Generation Z. It does work closely with other volunteer programs to help them with their volunteer needs. They work to help move organizations forward with excellent and proper volunteer management, along with their own events and volunteer opportunities. They help to provide human services to the community that they live in and also provide great mental health for those wanting to volunteer and find pride in their volunteerism. They do events that help the community with needs such as clothing drives and equity events such as Random Acts of Kindness.**

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2. Program Strengths. Pick two to four factors that contribute most importantly to the program/service outcomes. Do not list everything that is satisfactory. We will assume that things not mentioned are okay. For each strength describe some supporting evidence.

__**As COVID has hit everyone, this program has also been hit with this virus and the effects of the virus, however, they keep moving forward and making their community their priority. They stay on top of new ways to move forward with their initiatives. They also do this with limited funds. They have had funds cut the last 4 years from ASSET and so they work together to find ways to fundraise and also write grants. They came up with some creative ways to raise money with trivia night and working with others on the same goals. They also have spent time to become better with the funds that they have access to. They continue to use the Point of Light program and also help those to sign up and utilize the program. They do this while also providing volunteer management opportunities. This program is expensive but has shown numbers of volunteerism and donating to nonprofits improve with the teachings and experience of this program.**

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3. Program Weaknesses. Select factors that detract most from the program/service achieving its outcomes. Present details as described above. Recommendations for reducing these weaknesses should follow the discussion of each weakness.

I honestly did not see any weaknesses during my time with Anne or the board. They are trying their best with the funds that they have and moving forward with all their events, with changes due to COVID. Funding is the only concern and they have used all ways possible to try to stay on top of this.

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4. Financial Outlook. Current funding concerns should be described. In addition, the assessment of the program's plan to cope with shrinking resources should be given.

__**They have provided updates on the loss of funds and their willingness to fundraise and write grants. They have had a hard time with updated timesheet concerns and are working through this to make sure there is consistency. They are working with volunteers and not employees and so they are trying to make sure these volunteers are provided the best information while allowing them to not get frustrated in the process of a free service of volunteering.**

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5. Internal Management Practices. Summarize your assessment of the management of the agency, and the role of the Board. If there are deficiencies, details should be provided. Conclude with recommendations when appropriate.

__**I met with the director and then met with the board during a meeting. Anne was very informed of her job and the company. She was passionate about what she does and how to make it better. She looks at the funds and finds solutions for the team and brings all ideas to the board. She puts a lot of work into the information she provides to the board so they have the most information in order to make the best decisions. The board is very energetic and enjoyable. They are all very welcoming and passionate. Anne has a lot of great people on her board to help her with financing and management skills. They also have an interest in college students help, as they understand the world is changing and so is the technology. They have utilized all the strengths of the board and it was a great meeting to attend.**

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6. Agency Suggestions/Comments. Make note of any suggestions, comments or questions agencies may have with regard to the ASSET process, budget forms and or anything else that relates to the process.

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GENERAL ASSESSMENT:

The program is well run and the director and board get along well. The board is made up of 8 individuals, all volunteer. They have (3) 2 year terms they are able to serve and everyone has always served the full terms. They all take turns with note taking and provide their opinion/thoughts during the meeting. They are moving forward with their events and volunteer opportunities as they can with COVID. They are not slowing down but just learning to find new ways to do things. They receive help from Iowa State University students, even with them not on campus full time.