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Service learning Engineering Projects with Non-Profits

By: Abhishek Shetty
Palash Chandrakar
Peng Ren



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Stakeholders

Charlestown Elderly Housing

Northeastern University College of Engineering

Student volunteer team





Introduction -- Project Background

Introduction to EHDOC

Elderly Housing Development & Operations Corporation (EHDOC) develops and manages safe, secure, and affordable housing for senior citizens across the United States. It was founded in 1978 by the National Council of Senior Citizens, the organization that strongly advocated for Medicare, Social Security, and the Older Americans Act. EHDOC advocates for the highest quality of life for the seniors of today and tomorrow. EHDOC currently sponsors and manages 58 affordable senior housing communities including three communities under development, comprising nearly 5000 apartments in 14 states including Washington, DC and Puerto Rico.

Challenges

Due to the health situation, elderly housing community is make improvement accordingly, by transferring on-site events for seniors to online events. The challenges is to get over the technical issues, while ensuring the quality and fulfillments of the online events. Also for seniors in the community of Charlestown, advertisement is also a major task in order to involver as many seniors as possible into the events during the pandemic.



Project expectation

- Designing

Help the partner determine the format of meeting, hold virtual events using online video meeting software, and ensure that the participants can join via smart devices or via phone calls.

- Advertising

Advertise the event to the people in need, and invite the more senior citizens along with family members in the community of charleston to the event. This could help more senior citizens in the community.

- Fulfillment

Enrich virtual events for senior citizens with more interesting activities, and make the participant enjoy themselves with each other during the event.



Our work

- Facilitated weekly meetings and created agendas
- Did research on online events
- Worked with stakeholder to plan events
- Created flyers to market events
- Knowledge transferred to conduct events and create meetings to partner



Fun part about this experience

- Sense of community service in the project
- Lots of fun activities while learning project management skills
- Explore experiential learning outside the classroom for benefit of senior citizens
- Made contribution to the community
- Fun interaction with diverse teammates and clients



Learning Experience

- How to create project charter,dashboards interact with high level stakeholders
- Improved communication skills
- Gained valuable teaching experience
- Learnt Project Management Skills
- Gained Experience in Designing
- Gained Experience in Facilitating/Conducting Meeting



Summary

We enabled our clients to organize interactive meetings online, to keep the elderly community engaged. These activities will help relieve some of the stress and bring joy to their lives during these trying times we are facing.

Thank You

