

Make a Difference Initiative Application

Complete the scholarship/project application by responding to each section. The project must serve people in Butte, Lawrence or Meade counties in South Dakota, however, the scholarship recipient can be from anywhere. The application should be no more than seven (7) pages long.

1. Applicant's name__ **Shenae LaCroix**_____
2. Declared Major/s__ **Exercise Science/ Pre-Physical Therapy** _____
3. Declared Minor/s__ **Athletic Coaching** ____
4. Year in school__ **3rd year- Junior** _____ GPA__ **3.598/4.00** _____
5. History of volunteerism. Write a brief paragraph about your past volunteer work.
6. Your personal statement envisioning how you see yourself Making a Difference and why this is important to you. (500 words or less)

Project Proposal

1. Overview or abstract of the project.
2. Identify a need, issue or problem. How will your project make a positive difference with individuals and the community or society?
3. Literature Review: Research the underlying cause and potential solutions of the identified need, issue or problem. How will the project offer sustainable solutions to alleviate on-going social problems for the purpose of improving the quality of life for one or more of our citizens?

4. Project Aims: Must have a maximum of three SMART objectives (specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and timely).

5. Budget: Propose a budget including an explanation for each line item. Incorporate existing resources wherever possible. Maximum amount which can be awarded will be \$2,500. Salary for recipient will not be allowed.

6. Timeline: Provide detailed list of project tasks and deadlines for each task for the duration of the project. The timeline will begin June 1 and end May 31 of the following year.

7. How does this project make a difference?

8. How is this project sustainable?

Application/proposal is due March 23, 2015. Send application/project proposal electronically as a word document attachment to: sandy.klarenbeek@bhsu.edu. Announcement of selected recipient/s will be April 8, 2015.

History of Volunteerism

Community involvement through volunteerism has been a big part of my life since I can remember. The first big fundraiser I participated in was in fourth grade called Operation Santa, Kids Helping Kids where we raised money with raffle tickets and cookie day to buy clothes for kids in need. I have continued to help with this project when I am back from college for Christmas break. It became really pleasurable when I became of high school age and was able to be the organizer for these volunteer programs while help others.

High school: I was involved in a number of community service projects; Joey Rhoades and Missy Merchant fundraiser, Breast Cancer Awareness Variety Show, Christmas shopping for those families in need, Halloween Maverik walk, Valentines to give to the manor, movie nights for the community, serving dinners at the Chamber banquet and theater and many more.

College: I keep adding to my commitments and am never disappointed. I have been a facilitator in Mines buddies where we took special needs friends to community events. I have participated in a Make a Wish Relay with my track team. Science fairs and organizing Nerd nights with the Health Science Student Organization on campus also keep me involved. Special Olympics has been another fun experience. Coaching basketball, track, and soccer along with helping at state skiing. Special Olympics and Student Athlete Advisory Committee both intertwine for me. I am a representative for the athletes for the summer games we are hosting at BHSU. I also participated in the polar plunge the last two years. This year the triathlon team raised over \$500 and the BH athletes combined raised over \$2,000!

My newest volunteering event is YJ Friends. I have over 39 hours of volunteer service. This year we have had training & game night, movie & banner night, country fair, watering hole, volleyball game, basketball games, football game, corn maze & picnic, picnic & park day snack making, pancake tailgating, cookie decorating, community bingo night, board games & coloring night, Spread the Word to End the Word campaign, and St. Patrick's day park day. We still are not finished with the year! Without the Make a Difference Scholarship YJ Friends would not have been possible. I have been extremely fortunate this past year. With YJ Friends I have grown as a person. I learned how to budget a \$2,500 project. From when I submitted my scholarship last March I have learned that budgets change a little bit and do not follow that cookie cutter outline. This time around I was even more aware of the little things that are forgotten in an overall budget. I learned how to improve projects from the "I liked..." surveys I handed out. I have made connections with people in and out of the Spearfish community that I would have never been able to make before. I was shy. Now, I am more confident in myself, I can talk to community members, professors, and bigger groups now without totally talking myself out of it. I have met more college students who share same interests as well as bring great new ideas to YJ Friends, or even the classes I am in. This experience has been amazing and I owe it to the Make a Difference Scholarship committee and others who believed in me!

Personal Statement

"Reach for the moon. If you miss, you will land among the stars." This is what my parents have always taught me and what keeps me chasing my dreams. I wish to pursue a master's degree in exercise science, then to attend physical therapy school. I want to be able to be the young lady who created a bond with patients to make them feel at home and more importantly get them back to their regular routine, whether that is sports or daily routines. My plan is to first acquire a job as a physical therapist in a hospital. This would involve me with a wide range in ages of patients and disabilities/injuries. Seeing and being able to treat patients with a variety of complications will be challenging yet will give a satisfying and emotional feeling of success when seeing them positively progress. Once I get my feet under me, I would hope I could open a practice of my own. This would be a place where the patients felt at home and knew we could work together to get them back to productive life.

I was not the kid who would run to a book to read. I loved being read to, but I would find myself frustrated when reading. My parents tried, they were great teachers. However, I was stubborn and never wanted to challenge myself in reading. As I have become older I am not a fast reader and my vocabulary is not as strong as I wished. I always saw reading as homework, stressful, and the library was not the most relaxing to me.

I want to make a difference in the spearfish community by bringing in the book houses. The houses would help children who were stubborn like me. The book houses will also make books available to families who may not have the means to buy books for their children. Reading literacy is important. Adventure would be added to reading, and the homework stressor would be taken away. I believe that the book houses will make reading more enjoyable and in the future would contribute to higher literacy rates.

Abstract

Spearfish community book houses is a project designed to provide the community with free books. Do you have some old books laying around your house? Everyone seems to have one or two they just never pick up anymore. The system, these book houses have, are to go to the book house with that “book shelf book” and put it in the house. If you have interest in one of the books in the house, take it home and read it. When done with that book take it back to the same book house, or any of the ten, and repeat. This way books are cycling through and everyone is getting a new selection of books. This brings a little adventure to reading, by going on a walk to find the book houses around town!

Starting August of 2016, the book houses would be made at Northern Hills Training Center with the help of Ryan Aalbu. The NHTC clients would teach YJ Friends college students while the houses were being built. YJ Friends as a group project would then paint the houses and place them in the locations designated by the city. In September and December, we will hand out fliers to the Spearfish elementary schools. Fliers will be hung in the middle school, high school, and around the community. We will also place an ad in the Black Hills Pioneer and city water bill. This flier will have the concept of the book houses and where to find them. YJ Friends will also talk to different service organizations and the Chamber to spread the word in the community.

In City of Spearfish, I have conversed with Mayor Dana Boke, Public Works Administrator Cheryl Johnson, Parks, Recreation, Forestry, Supt. Keith Hepper, and we have come up with locations and steps to what needs to be done in the city for the book houses if the scholarship is awarded. The 10 locations we have tentatively chosen are Lions Park, Jorgensen Park, Spearfish City Park, Brady Park, Heritage Park, Spearfish Campground, Spearfish Rec Center, Café 608, Bay Leaf, and the last is going to be placed around the Walmart area. I have talked with Amber Wilde at the Grace Balloch Memorial Library. She has said that many have tried to start a program like this in Spearfish, but it has never taken off. Amber thinks this would be a great tool for the community. She does not see a competition with the library and book houses, either. Amber also said Friends of the Library would likely volunteer their time to help us keep the book houses successful. She offered that they would be able to help maintain them during the summer months when college students are absent, along with offering funds when the scholarship would be completed. This would be confirmed with Friends of the Library by projects being accepted. These individuals are on board and believe the book houses would be very beneficial for the Spearfish Community to have this book house program.

Positive Difference

When I was young I used to love listening to stories. As I got older reading was not the first thing I wanted to do. Book houses, or little free libraries, are spreading around the world. As a kid I would have loved to go on a mini adventure to seek out a book to read. The book houses add an adventure to reading. The Little Free Library website, <https://littlefreelibrary.org/>, is full of ideas and stories that have come

from having them. There is over 22,000 registered little free libraries worldwide, Kathryn Sterns said at <http://digital.vpr.net/post/stearns-little-libraries#stream/0>. No library card, no due date, just free reading.

“To promote literacy and the love of reading by building free book exchanges worldwide and to build a sense of community,” quote from Little Free Library website. Schools are always talking about how to increase literacy rates and parents are always asking how can I get my child to read, well here might be a fun easy answer! The children will get to find that book they have interest in and are not forced to return it by a certain date. There are slow and fast readers. With no due date they will feel unrushed, unforced, and enjoy reading more.

These book houses will also bring the community together. The library has offered to donate at least 100 books to start us off. YJ Friends will not put all 100 in at the beginning, but enough to get the concept started. We are doing this so we can restock when needed. These books will have a variety in reading levels from kindergarten to adult. Mike Cornell, Steward of Library #26303 said, “They say this in the Little Free Library book, and it’s true. I’ve talked to more neighbors in the past 2 weeks than I have in the past 10 years! What a totally positive thing!” This could be from meeting at the book house and talking about the book a fellow community member just grabbed, or was placing in the house. It also is a great activity for guests who are visiting. Grandmas on the Little Free Library talk about how they take their grandchildren. The grandchildren even ask when they arrive if they can go to the Library today! I have talked to Sandy Klarenbeek about these book houses and she also said her grandchildren love going to the ones in New York.

Literature Review

Library cards are \$20.00 per year at Grace Balloch Memorial Library. After contacting Craig Crosswait and Brittany Kahl at the Spearfish School District I was sent the free and reduced lunch numbers. As of February 12, 2016 for district wide/ Eligible for Free- 527 students, for district wide/ eligible for reduced- 142. This means that the odds of at least 669 students in the Spearfish School District are unable to go purchase books, or buy a library card. Yes, there are school libraries. Many times students feel out of place, or that it is homework to go in and read in there. This is sometimes because time limits and assignments are assigned with reading, which is necessary. However, the book houses would give the students a chance to just adventure out and read. No time limit, no assignment, just getting lost in a book.

Book houses are not just for school aged children. They are for all ages; as is the variety of leveled books we will stock the houses with. Thanks to Larry Klarenbeek at Economic Development in the Spearfish Chamber office, I was able to look at the demographic snapshot 2015 reports. There are 2,858 children in Spearfish between the ages of 0-4. There are 3,006 households who have an income less than \$15,000. Families below poverty who have children is 881. This means that literacy rates trace back to younger ages. If families cannot afford books, then those children are not being read to, or being able to start learning words while reading to their families. “Children develop literacy skills and an awareness of language long before they are able to read. Since language development is fundamental to all areas of learning, skills developed early in life can help set the stage for later school success. By reading aloud to their young children, parents help them acquire the skills they will need to be ready for school,” said Children Trends (<http://www.childtrends.org/?indicators=reading-to-young-children#sthash.wPin9n92.dpuf>). Families below poverty without children is 1,181. The Spearfish 18 and over population is 39,092. This also shows that there is a decent amount who are in the adult population that also are not able to spend money on books. “32 million adults in the U.S. can’t read... and 19 percent of high school graduates can’t read,” said Huffington Post (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/09/06/illiteracy-rate_n_3880355.html). America says that this is

the illiterate generation, but it might be because money is an issue. It is harder to find a book they want to read when money is an issue.

SMART Objectives

By the end of this project (May, 2017),

- The NHTC and YJ Friends students will have collaborated to build and distribute 10 book houses through Spearfish.
- YJ Friends will have reached out and formed partnerships with the city, the public schools, NHTC, city library, and the community.
- YJ Friends and NHTC will have created a vehicle to promote reading literacy to families by developing the free book houses.
- YJ Friends will provide an opportunity for individuals and/or groups to donate and support the Make A Difference One Book at a Time by placing the website on the houses.
- This project has a sustainability plan to continue long-term.

Budget

From YJ Friends I have realized how budgets change from plans. At this time, this is what Northern Hills Training Center and myself have figured it would cost to construct 10 book houses. The number of book houses is tentative because of locations that might change or be added through the 2016-17 school year. Ryan Albau of Northern Hills Training Center said, “The pricing is per one book house. I used pricing based on Lowe’s and Amazon. I rounded up the pricing to give a ball park figure. If anything, hopefully they would cost less, but that will be determined on pricing when we decide to purchase.”

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|---|-------|
| ○ Book houses (\$69.00/house x 10) | \$720 |
| ○ Rounded to \$720 for cushion in price changes | |
| ○ 4, 1 gallon red exterior paint (\$50 x 4) | \$200 |
| ○ 5, 1 gallon tan exterior paint (\$50 x 5) | \$250 |
| ○ 2, 1 gallon brown exterior paint (\$50 x 2) | \$100 |
| ○ 10 stainless steel name plates | \$50 |
| ○ http://www.plaquemaker.com/stainless-steel-tag?sc=2&category=33457 | |
| ○ Paint brush set of 3 (\$20 x 8) | \$160 |
| ○ 6 plastic paint trays | \$20 |
| ○ Paper hanouts/fliers for Spearfish community and schools | \$300 |
| ○ Newspaper and other advertisement | \$200 |
| ○ NHTC woodshop use | |
| ○ <i>Matching funds</i> | \$350 |

Total: \$2,350

Pricing List for Book House per 1

Plywood for exterior, roof and floor of book house	\$ 10.00
4X4 Post	\$ 6.00
Plexi Glass 6”X6” window	\$ 6.00
Plexi Glass Cutting Tool (one time cost)	\$ 10.00
Caulk	\$ 4.00
Piano Hinge 1 ½ X 12”	\$ 10.00

Making a Difference One Book at a Time

Shenae LaCroix

Magnet Closure	\$ 2.00
Chain and hardware to prevent door opening too far	\$ 8.00
Screws ¾ and 3”	\$ 9.00
Wood Glue	\$ 4.00
TOTAL COST PER 1 BOOK HOUSE:	\$69.00



View from front of book house.

Color: Tan, with brown border around window.

Note: Plexi glass window will be in front and will open from top not front. This will allow viewing before opening.



View from side of book house.

Color: Tan.

Make a Difference logo (when designed) will appear here, or on roof top.

Roof slanted so precipitation will run off and not into books.



View from back of book house.

Color: Tan.

If location calls for book house to be attached to already standing post will attach back here.



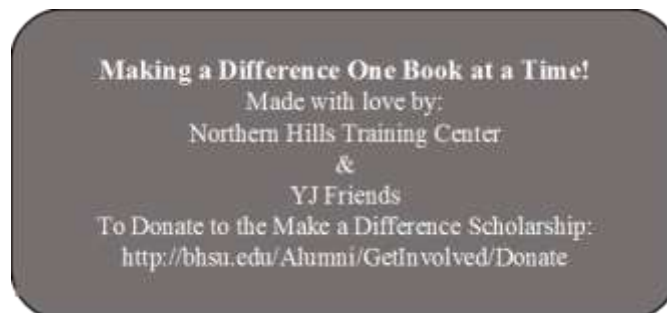
View shows that front is 12” high. This fits up to 5 books.

It will fit more small books, however for big picture books 3-5 fit neatly.

Color: Roof top will be red.

Example book house done by Ryan Aalbu of NHTC.

The stainless steel plaques will be placed under the window and will read:



Timeline

Tentative Schedule:

June-July- planning period

Making a Difference One Book at a Time

Shenae LaCroix

-Contacts with the city and Northern Hills Training center would be made to complete the plans and procedures needed to place the book houses around the community. Materials would be ordered and delivered.

August- meeting & start (parks)

-The meeting would be held with YJ Friends college students and the NHTC clients. We would be working with in the wood shop. We will then start our first two houses.

September- place & start (parks), Handouts

-Book house 1 will be placed in in City Park by the bridge closest to the Fish Hatchery. Book house 2 will be placed in the campground. We will start the next two book houses this month. We will be passing out handouts to schools, listing the 2 book houses we put up, and where to look for the next ones for each upcoming month. Put flier in newspaper, city water bill, and talk to different service organizations and Spearfish Chamber.

October- place & start (parks)

-Book house 3 will be placed in the Lions Park. Book house 4 will be placed by Brady Park by the Farmers market. We will start the next two book houses this month.

** The next book houses are still to be decided by the city on where to put them in the downtown area. We have an idea on places, but these spots could change a little bit. **

November- place & start (downtown)

-Book house 5 will be placed by Bay Leaf. Book house 6 will be placed by Café 608. The next two book houses will be started this month.

December- place (rec center)

-This will be a short and busy month for college students and the community. We will place Book house 7 at the Rec Center.

January- place & start (park), Handouts

-Book house 8 will be placed in Jorgensen park. The next two book houses will be started this month. We will be delivering handouts to the schools again to remind them of the book houses. Handouts, fliers, and more community talks will take place to remind the community of the book houses.

February- place (park & TBA)

-Book house 9 will be placed at Heritage Park. Book house 10 will be placed out towards Walmart, exact location to be announced.

March-May-

-Once a month YJ Friends will check if we need to fix anything with our book houses.

May- Hand off

-YJ Friends will be talking to Friends of the Library to let them know what we just checked on the book houses for that month. We will give them contact information, and any other information they will need to keep the book houses successful through the

summer.

**October through May we will be checking the book houses once a month to check if they need to be fixed, restocked, or possibly moved from that location.

Making a Difference

There would be a difference made in the lives of NHTC and BHSU students by being able to work together to make the community of Spearfish even stronger. The community will come together by talking about, adventuring to, and discussing about these books and book houses. Literacy rates will be higher because the younger generation will be able to be read to, or be able to read by having access to these free books. YJ Friends encourages BHSU students to be the mentors of NHTC, but now with the NHTC woodshop clients they will be mentoring the BHSU students. This will enhance the leadership and social skills for NHTC and will benefit NHTC and BHSU students in communicating with the community. By bringing in NHTC, BHSU, Spearfish schools, and all ages of the community of Spearfish we will make a difference in making our community stronger one book at a time.

Sustainability

This project would be sustainable from Friends of the Library, YJ Friends, and the Spearfish community. Friends of the Library have volunteered to help maintain the book houses while YJ Friends is not in session. This would be during the summer break while the college members of YJ Friends are gone. They also said they had some funds that they would be able to help if we needed repair on book houses that the grant would not cover. These funds would also help with repair after May 2017 when the scholarship completed. YJ Friends would make this their community project each year to keep them maintained for the school year. Sustainability would be kept with the previous Make a Difference Scholarship, YJ Friends and a second, Book Houses, if granted. Each year we would promote the book houses in the schools at the beginning of school, after Christmas break, and right before they were let out for summer.