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WKU ALIVE CENTER FOR COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Where campus and community connect to learn and serve

- For students:
  - Service-Learning
  - Community-Based Research
  - Meaningful Service

The $100 Solution™

The $100 Solution™ at WKU:
Join the Dream

Philosophy of The $100 Solution™

- Big problems start with small steps
- Power of a small amount of money
- Challenges traditional public service – Five Principles

Philosophy (cont.)

- Empowers students
- Develops soft skills (critical thinking, problem-solving, leadership, adaptability, etc.)
- The power of small groups
- Build civic agency: Training to become a citizen professional
- Engages students in the service-learning process

Philosophy (cont.)

- Rejects superiority
- Asks the Big Question:
  - "What can we do to help you enhance the quality of life in your community?"

"It's all about the learning!"
~ Dr. Bernard Strenecky, Founder
**How it Works at WKU**

- Brainstorming/Networking
- Training
- Applications
- Implementation
- Reporting

**Evidence of Student Success…**

**WKU Students Reflect:**

**What did you learn?**

- "I can honestly say I am a better person because of the impact it has made in my life. Anyone with the time and the drive should get involved in The $100 Solution™."  
- "This project made each of us feel uncomfortable at times, and it made each of us feel frustrated, but most importantly, by the end of it all it made each of us feel like we had made a difference."  
- "The five principles… ensured that we were actually helping and not just doing or giving… It was frustrating at times, but the more frustrating it became, made it feel that much better when it was a success. I think I experienced nearly every emotion I am capable of feeling, at some point during the project. We had to realize that Rome wasn’t built in a day."

**WKU Students Reflect:**

**What did you learn?**

- "…that if a person has a good idea, and is given the right opportunity and the right team, there is no limit to what they can accomplish.”  
- "… that helping other people does not cost a lot of money. It takes passion, motivation, and team work to affect our communities.”

- "…that service is not just about helping other people by giving them something that they can hold on to or a material object … it is about connecting with people and building relationships in which both people can strive and reach their full potential.”

**Future Research Studies**

**Links between…**

- THDS and evidence of civic agency in student participants
- THDS high school model and college preparedness
- THDS postsecondary model and career preparedness
- Economic Impact of THDS

**What We’ve Learned…**

- Time is of the essence – semester timeline
- Course integration vs THDS as an “add on”
- Importance of community partnerships
- Accountability measures
- Don't assume – importance of communication and training
- Works best with the “big fish in the little ponds”

**To learn more about The $100 Solution™ visit**

www.the100dollarsolution.org