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Leading with Service

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Team Reflection

As  a co- project manager of Project Bloom: Helpin’ Special People Bloom, I was responsible for keeping people accountable, reviewing documents and ensuring they were completed, and keeping people positive and motivated to keep pushing forward. I personally contributed by completing the work plan, many of the charter documents, and the majority of the completion documents with the help of my other co-manager, Kelsei Cotter. I believe my most significant contribution to the group was my excitement over our project and willingness to help and support others with their responsibilities in the group. I kept the group running smoothly, with the help of Kelsei of course, and helped rally everyone around our cause, buying Summerhouse a new shredder.

I believe that Inspire a Shared Vision was the most relevant practice from *The Student Leadership Challenge* by Kouzes and Posner when it comes to Project Bloom, because from the start, our group had the same vision. When Ms. Galassi had the groups draw out their visions for their projects individually, we all ended up with the exact same vision: buy Summerhouse a new shredder. We all found it fairly easy to summarize our vision and share it with our group and others. The most difficult practice was Challenge the Process. We had to challenge the process multiple times throughout our project, most notably when we had to find somewhere to host a bake sale. We contacted church after church, but we were turned down time and time again. We had to contact churches further away from us, and had to figure out a way to gain the most profit to meet the $1,700 goal to pay for the shredder. We found St. Augustine, and made over $500 in a donation based bake sale, challenging the process of what we had originally thought our bake sales would run.

Before Project Bloom, I wanted to help those with mental disabilities, but I had no idea how to do so, especially in a way that would make them feel comfortable. After meeting so many people at The Summerhouse, I’ve realized I’ve learned a lot. Becca, Feliciana, Cole, Jesse, Summer, they’re not the same as I am. We act differently, we have different lives, different skills, different thoughts and dreams for the future. However, their differences have no effect on their worth. They are made in the image and likeness of God, and should be treated as such. Just because someone isn’t like you doesn’t mean they aren’t important. I know that very well, but working with people from Summerhouse has only served to cement that belief. I love working with Summerhouse, and I know they enjoyed our company. I would love to see other Leading with Service classes continue to raise money in order to purchase Summerhouse a full set of brand new updated shredders. This project focused on two things, purchasing a shredder and making friends with people at Summerhouse. I would love to see IWA invite Summerhouse to more choir and theatre productions, especially after seeing how much they enjoyed our choir’s Christmas concert.