**How did you personally contribute?**

I was a part of Design and Marketing along with Nicole Burke. I have worked equally alongside Nicole in designing our Values sign, the Summerhouse tags for the bake sale, the Poster for the bake sale, the invitation for the Christmas Choir Concert, and I made the reserved signs for said Concert. I don't believe I've worked quite as much as Nicole has on the website though. I helped her come up with the basic layout and design but because I don't have wifi or a laptop at home, I have only been able to contribute when we work on it in class. To make up for that I try to remind the team to send their personal reflections and pictures to Nicole so she can put them on the website. I have been to every meeting at summer to socialize with the young adults there. I did miss the last meeting because it was the day of the Christmas Concert we invited them to and I was in the concert so I had to stay after school and rehearse. This did give me an early opportunity to place the reserved signs for Summerhouse, though. I managed to raise $180 from friends and family to contribute to buying the shredder. I was able to attend the bake sale and bring Nicole's baked goods. She was not able to attend through no fault of her own. Her family had make plans to be out of town before we set the date and could not cancel them. The trip did help contribute to the project though, seeing she was able to collect donations from relatives. I helped set up, watch the table, collect donations, and bring goods for the sale. Because I was at the bake sale I managed to take some pictures and sent them to Nicole for the website. I also helped with the annotated bibliography, charter docs, the workplan docs, the budget docs, and the video.

**Which of the practices did you find personally most relevant or useful to apply?**

I think found it easiest to Encourage the Heart. Whenever we got setbacks and had to overcome obstacles I tried to encourage everyone by saying things like; “We got this!”, “We can totally do this.”, “We're almost there.” , and “This is gonna be awesome.” I also tried to tell people when I saw them do awesome things. Like when Evelina managed to raise $128 just from selling brownies pre-bake sale.

**What was difficult?**

The most challenging one, for me, was Challenge the Process. I'm good at brainstorming and throwing ideas out but I don't like to speak if I don't think an idea is very good or I think there's a better one. It's hard to take the risk that I might be the only one who thinks this or even worse, accidentally offend them. And if my idea is , admittedly, not the greatest, I need to be let down easy. Explain to me why my idea isn't the greatest or the rejection will kinda crumble all my confidence and I want to speak up again. It's something I tried to work on in this project but it's still the most difficult.

**How do you see your social justice problem differently now?**

I had known of this social justice problem before but it hadn't really been on the forefront of my mind. I was also, ashamedly, apart of it. I tended to try and ignore people with mental disabilities because I didn't really know how to talk to them and it make me uncomfortable. I knew they were people too and everything, I just, for some reason, was really uncomfortable around them. I was wary with this project because I knew I would have to be around them and I figured it was a good time to get over whatever was stopping me from interacting with these people. I have a clearer vision of who they are and what they go through.

**How did you research & project involvement change the way you view that area of Catholic Social Teaching?**

I'm really glad the Church and Catholic Social Teaching is so supportive. Pope Francis said that it was our duty to help people with mental disabilities and to treat them the same as any other person because in the eyes of Gid they are. They too, were created in His image and likeness.

**What extensions do you see for the project if it could continue or expand?** Because Project Bloom is actually to help other organizations it could be turned into a club or one of the bigger things like YLP. Students could target an organization or two that needs help and is struggling to get funds or a certain item and raise money for said organization. While doing this they could interact with the people or animals that the organization is supporting. They could help people Bloom and Bloom themselves in the process. We already have a website too so it could just be updated and expanded as team members and organizations change.