

A Proposal for a Community Organization L E V E L 2

A

PROPOSAL FOR: "SENIOR HOME HEALTH CARE COMMUNITY SERVICES" (SHHCS)

Good Day [REDACTED] representative, I am a spokesperson for a new organization called the "Senior Home Health Care Community Services" we are a new organization that has just in its beginning stages and is requesting funds to get our project rolling. Our organization will help our aging population, which is increasing in size, to a point where there will soon be more seniors than there are healthy adult bodies to take care of them.

Because of the baby boom, during the next decade or so, and continuing on after that, there will be a dramatic increase in the number of seniors in Canada, and even around the world. Most of these elderly people will have families that can assist in their care as they age, but these family members will most likely not be able to be there every day to help them with the daily chores and things they used to do that may be more challenging to them now. This is a social problem because it will affect an increasingly large number of people. In addition to slow population growth, population aging will continue.

From an Anthropologists perspective, there are many factors contributing to the problem my new organization will address. For instance, the baby boom after WWII followed by a period with a relatively lower birth rate is now leaving us with a larger elderly population than the working middle aged people that we

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have to support them. The median age of the population (the point of age distribution where half of the population is older then the other half is younger) is expected to increase to 40.4 years by 2016, from only 33.9 years in 1993.¹ This problem may not be as apparent today but it will become increasingly problematic as the years go on. Never before has any society had so many of its members live to old age. Earlier societies had higher birth rates and higher death rates with shorter life expectancies.² This means that in the near future there will be more seniors than ever in need of care as they age, we can't expect our government to take care of all of them so the SHHCS is prepared to help out in this situation.

Psychologically seniors are struggling more these days than before as a result of more people reaching senior status. As they age, the elderly may have more difficulty facing every day circumstances, which can lower ones self-esteem. They feel as if they are less useful because they cannot perform the duties they could when they were younger. Imagine if you were able to do a certain task very well, but as you got older your skill diminished, you may feel less useful. Seniors must deal with this all the time, but if they had a helper from the SCCHS come to aid them every once in a while, they could continue living at home independently and live a healthy active social life in their own home instead of having to be sent away to a retirement residence.

¹ Statistics Canada. (1996, Summer) Canada in the 21st Century. *Canada's Population Charting In to the 21st Century*. Catalogue number: 11-088-XPE (Author :Tina Chui)

² <http://www.pch.gc.ca/csp-pec/english/about/aging>

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Seniors also face problem sociologically, their close friends and relatives may not have the time or money to take care of them properly, or to send them to a retirement home, the SCCHS can aid these families by allowing their senior family members to remain happy and healthy in their own residence.

This problem affects almost all seniors in some way or another, most don't like to accept the fact that they are aging any more than anyone else, it also affects the elderly peoples families and even the neighbors they live around. As we age, normal chores and activities get more and more difficult to accomplish, and this is one of the reasons that the siblings of our seniors often send their parents or older relatives to retirement homes. The organization I am part of will help seniors to keep living at home with a few hours of daily help by our volunteers. The SHHCS will send volunteers to the homes of our senior citizens if they need help with their chores, cleaning, shopping, transportation, etc.

A study done in 1994 showed that almost 3.5 million Canadians were aged 65 and over³, many of these people are most likely assisted in one way or another by family or some type of government funded health care in order to keep their lifestyle the way they like it. This new organization will aid all who request assistance and will take some of the weight off the families shoulders, and the governments. In addition to that, the SCCHS should make our elderly population feel more independent and boost their self esteem because they are

³ Ward, M. (1998) *The family Dynamic: A Canadian Perspective second edition*. Scarborough: Thomson Canada

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still able to live in their homes surrounded by neighbors and people they know, with their pets, etc without receiving constant care. Thank you for your time and consideration with my proposal.

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Bibliography:

1) Statistics Canada. (1996, Summer) *Canada in the 21st Century. Canada's Population Charting In to the 21st Century.* Catalogue number: 11-088-XPE (Author :Tina Chui)

2) <http://www.pch.gc.ca/csp-pec/english/about/aging>

3) Ward, M. (1998) The family Dynamic: A Canadian Perspective second edition. Scarborough: Thomson Canada

Teacher's Notes

Knowledge/Understanding

- The student identifies and describes the needs of elderly people with some accuracy, pointing out that “As we age, normal chores and activities get more and more difficult to accomplish...”. The student does not, however, consider any needs other than help with daily chores, referring vaguely to “things they [seniors] used to do that may be more challenging to them now”.
- The student describes the proposed organization with some clarity, stating that “The SHHCS [referring to “Senior Home Health Care Community Services”] will send volunteers to the homes of our senior citizens if they need help with their chores, cleaning, shopping, transportation, etc.”. However, the organization claims to include health care, and the proposal does not specify how this issue will be addressed. In addition, no mention is made of the organization’s location or scope of operations, or how it will work with government other than being “prepared to help out in this situation”.

Thinking/Inquiry

- The student assesses the influence of social forces with some accuracy, as illustrated by the following:
 - a) The student assesses the influence of anthropological factors with some accuracy, noting the aging of the baby boomers and the predicted rise in the median age of the population, coupled with the fact that “Never before has any society had so many of its members live to old age”. However, the student makes this last observation several times in the proposal without really enlarging upon it.
 - b) The student assesses the influence of psychological factors with some accuracy, recognizing that “They [the elderly] feel as if they are less useful because they cannot perform the duties they could when they were younger”. However, the student makes the assumption that, with some help in the performance of these duties, elderly people could “live a healthy active social life in their own home instead of having to be sent away to a retirement residence”. This is a simplistic and unsubstantiated conclusion.

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- c) The student assesses the influence of sociological factors with some accuracy, but does not go beyond acknowledging that elderly people may not have close friends or relatives with the time or money to take care of them properly. Again, the student comes to a simplistic and unsubstantiated conclusion: that, with a little assistance, elderly people will “remain happy and healthy in their own residence”.

Communication

- The student justifies the formation of the new organization with some effectiveness. The organization has a clear goal: to “help seniors to keep living at home”. There is some confusion, however, as to how often this help will be available – “every once in a while” or “a few hours . . . daily”. Moreover, the student’s assertion that the organization “will take some of the weight off the families shoulders, and the governments” is not convincing because not enough evidence has been provided to support it.
- The student uses social science terminology with some appropriateness and accuracy, but terms such as “baby boom”, “aging population”, and “self-esteem” tend to be repeated rather than expanded upon.

Application

- The student makes predictions about the impact of the community organization that are somewhat appropriate. Some elderly people in the community would clearly benefit from the kind of help being proposed. However, some important factors, such as health issues, depression, and loneliness, are not addressed.

Comments

This work is representative of a solid level-2 performance. The student demonstrates some degree of achievement of the expectations in all four categories of knowledge and skills.

The result is a fairly effective and thoughtful proposal, but one that has a tendency to repeat information.

Next Steps

In order to improve his or her performance, the student needs to:

- conduct further research to include more sociological influences that affect the lives of elderly people;
- include a greater variety of social science terms;
- proofread carefully to correct errors in punctuation and to avoid repetitious statements.