Objective 2

“I will organize/support and attend fundraising events and programs, including planning, promotion, solicitation, and evaluation”. The first half of my internship I received very little assignments that corresponded to this objective. However the second term, I was given various projects that pin pointed my objective perfectly.

To begin, Make-A-Wish has over a hundred and fifty “Wish Granters”, each one of them are assigned to at least two wishes throughout the year, some complete up to thirty a year. In the internship I was asked to compile a list of Wish Granters with the total amount of wishes that each one has completed. This required organization and meticulously searching through their data base for each individual wish. With this list we planned on starting a program where our Volunteers could receive stars for every five wishes they complete with Make-a-Wish. Our objective is to show our appreciation as well as motivate and congratulate them on their accomplishments. Training on the data base was a bit difficult and confusing. I was given a brief tutorial and then the majority of my assignment required me to become familiar with the system by primarily exploration. In my future career I’ll be introduced to a system that will help me accomplish my tasks. My internship is a great place where I can practice developing these skills, along with initiate my ability to be organized, which can potentially be useful in every field of work.

Another assignment I received was to put together a power point for certain occasions. The employees have a board meeting in which they discuss the year’s objectives and outcomes, reviewing their results and further analyzing them. I was asked to put together a wish-kid PowerPoint to capture the foundation’s success. This PowerPoint would also be shown for the volunteers and staff at the annual Christmas party. To an extent the actual PowerPoint isn’t directly relevant to my major but the thought process and planning is very much so. The detailed thought process I went through in choosing the layout and planning for my audience became a major focus. The use of imagery impacts us differently than words alone. I had to take in account professionalism along with portraying our accomplishments. Developing this skill is useful in applying for future jobs, compiling my resume, as well as maintaining and demonstrating to my coworkers and bosses the quality of my work.

A few months ago I had the privilege of being part of Melissa’s Wish. Just turning 18 and undergoing a heart transplant a year earlier, Melissa wished to have a masquerade ball. She dreamed of having the experience of a senior prom. This year Make-a-Wish completed its 30 year anniversary, therefore it felt appropriate to make the wish even bigger by inviting a general invitation to the public to attend the wish and celebrate the foundation. The event was held at the state capitol and required the entire staff in planning it. I was assigned to help with food estimates and preparation. We expected roughly 3,500 to attend. This area of work required the least amount of training but if calculated wrong would have the biggest of an effect. Once again, professionalism was mandatory, along with staying functional and organized under high stress situations. At the event, I became a reliable source to answer people’s questions about the organization and solve minor problems that would occur.

Although I have officially declared my major in an area I was initially not considering, my internship is still relevant. The skills developed are applicable to almost every occupation especially the communication. The experiences I have had and continue having I am able to apply to various situations and could use in correspondence to my resume and interview questions. I have improved my ability to promote, organize and evaluate in more useful and effective ways to the benefit of myself and the company for which I work for.