

Stakeholder Interview

The project that I am working on has many stakeholders that are affected by what is going on. My internship is at Healthy Tarrant County Collaboration, where they have many projects that involve policy system environment, resident engagement, and healthy food access. My project is centered around healthy food access by going to Mind Your Garden Urban Farm. This farm is a partner with my internship site where its focus is to provide healthy food to the members of the Southeast Fort Worth community. In order to make this a healthier and vibrant community Mind Your Garden does many things to help out. Some of these things include planting various fruits and vegetables, selling those fruits and vegetables at farmers markets, donating some of them to churches and other organizations, providing cooking demonstrations, and hosting classes and events at the farm.

There are many people who have an interest in my project's success such as the organization that I am interning with, event coordinators/managers of the markets that the farm sells at, the churches and organizations that receive the donations, and the members of the community who buy and receive these fruits and vegetables. In order to gain a better understanding of what the stakeholders need in order to make sure that the project is successful and beneficial to everyone, then it is important that the views and opinions of the stakeholders are being taken into consideration. In my opinion, one of the most important stakeholders are the members of the community who receive the service of my project. In order to make sure that my project is successful then it is important that I am in contact with these stakeholders so that I am able to listen to their needs and what they need. That is why it is also important to perform interviews or sit downs with these stakeholders every once in a while, to get their views and opinions, which is what I was able to do.

The stakeholder that I interviewed was a single mother of two who attends the markets whenever she has the chance. She also mentioned that when going to these markets, she also attends the cooking demonstrations that the farm performs. When asked about what she likes the most of her community she stated that she likes how everyone is always ready to help one another out, and how everyone looks out for each other. She mentioned that the only reason she knew about these markets was because someone from her church let her know about it. When speaking more about her community she said that even though everyone in the community is like family, there are some challenges. The Glencrest neighborhood in Fort Worth is located in a food desert area, which means that there are not a lot of healthy food options. When asked if this is a challenge for her, she said that for her it is personally not a factor, but for other people that she knows it is since they may lack transportation.

When asked about the services that my project provides, she said that they are very helpful and beneficial to her. She also said that she lets others know about what my project does for members in her community. The views and opinions that she has on my project have a major impact on the success of my project. Since she feels positive and that it is of help, this means that my project can be successful. The more that people hear about my project then the more it will be able to expand and grow. Everything grows with recommendations and the more that the garden receives then the more funding it can receive. If the views of the community members are all the same, then that can mean that the more the farm can grow since everyone in the community would want the resources that they provide. It would also be a success because if this farm grows and instills trust into community members, then that means that even more farms can be created. It is important that the views and opinions of the stakeholders of a project are being heard so that the overall goal of the project can succeed.