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ECE 411

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Mini Ecological Study Part III

As mentioned in paper 2, crime and violence bombard the community of Brownsville and if we are being precise, we can say domestic violence is one of the leading acts of violence in this community. Domestic violence puts the community at risk in so many ways, it can cause disabilities in children directly and indirectly as shown by the analysis in paper 2. Mothers who were abused while being pregnant were shown to have conceived a child or children with a physical or psychological disability and children who have experienced domestic violence have also shown signs of having mental and learning issues. My advocacy plan will be educating parents and community members about the effects that domestic violence has on children, implementing ways to prevent it, and offering support to families who have experienced domestic violence or abuse.

For this advocacy plan, parents, community members, and teachers are the stakeholders that are impacted by this issue of domestic violence. As shown in paper 2, parents are directly affected by domestic violence which is most time committed by another family member. Pregnant women are that high risk and children who are living in a household that is affected by domestic violence. Community members and parents are most times aware of domestic violence as this is shown by the physical scars, behaviors, and educational deficiencies that a teacher may

observe in a child. I would use Public School 298 and The Brownsville Justice Center to start getting community members on board as a small advocacy plan. I would set up a meeting with the principal and other administrative staff of PS 298 about hosting an evening workshop on domestic violence for families and I would also contact the justice center and ask for their cooperation in hosting the workshop which will educate parents on domestic violence, ways how they support victims, and how to report domestic abuse. This workshop will not inform everyone so, I will also set up a community meeting for the wider community which can be held in one of the community parks. I will work along with the justice center and other non-violence-based organizations in the community. I will post flyers at the schools and places that are frequently visited by community members and with the help of community members we can use a vehicle with a loudspeaker to drive around the community and announce this event.

After educating community members on the effects of domestic violence, and support services available I will start a petition. This petition will be geared towards preventing domestic violence in the community which will be signed by all community members who agree. I will then proceed with my large advocacy plan which will be taking the petition to the city council of Brooklyn for further actions. I can also rally willing people in the community who were victims of domestic violence or abuse to share their stories and state how and where they got support to escape from the abuse at a Town Hall meeting before elected officials.

Most times, families of children with exceptionalities fail to receive the help they need because they are not aware of the support services and resources available to them. Since teachers are often knowledgeable about the rights and resources available to children with exceptionalities, they should make it their duty to inform parents about the services available and entitled to their children. Teachers should also advocate for the instruction and services that a

child needs to excel. Community members, as well as families of children with exceptionalities and myself, can liaison with organizations in the community that offers service support to children with exceptionalities to rise a higher awareness of disabilities and services that are offered. A community meeting can be held where willing families of children with exceptionalities can share their experience and the different organizations can educate community members on the services available. Due to the surge of COVID-19, many support services for people with special needs, families, and children were forced to close their doors. Public schools were closed and coerced to online which was not in the best interests of all children. Schools and the Department of Education were offering devices to students without, but schools could not supply all the families and the Department of Education waiting time was extremely long. Some students were missing out on the services they would receive in school. With the closure of schools, the school pantry at PS 298 became less accessible which is a great help to parents and community members, and the afterschool program was halted abruptly. However, with the reopening of schools, the pantry became accessible as it was before, and the afterschool program is in effect once more.

As mentioned in paper 2, crime and violence plague the community of Brownsville and are on the rise. Crime violence is proven to have a connection to unemployment in this community. Students and adults alike have witnessed shootings, PS 298 has also been affected by having disruptions to their daily schedule due to shootings. Paper 2 highlighted how COVID-19 caused an increase in crime and violence in the community since many lost their jobs and afterschool programs and centers for children and youth had to close their doors. It also states that business owners are fearful of operating business in the area because of the high crime rate. These closures leave youngsters idle, vulnerable, and desperate. Paper 2 also provided

evidence that connects youngsters to most of the crime and violence which occur in the community. My advocacy plan will be to improve support services that offer educational or skill opportunities, counseling, and job opportunities for youngsters in the community to lessen crime and violence.

The stakeholders for this advocacy plan will be children, teenagers, young adults, parents, and community members. In my small advocacy plan, I will call directors of centers in the community to find out what they offer and how the services can be improved with funds to cater to the needs of the youngsters in the community. With the help of the centers, I could make flyers to post around the community to inform youngsters and community members about a center meeting where we will listen to the concerns of the community's youth and seek ideas for improvement. For my large advocacy plan, youngsters will utilize their social media skills to create a social media account where they can share and voice these issues. Community members and youngsters can sign a petition that highlights what is needed which will be sent to the city council. They can also exercise their rights by also engaging in a peaceful protest at one of the New York Council if the petition is not effective.

The community of Brownsville is greatly affected by crime and violence. Domestic violence has proven to have negative effects on children which can result in disabilities in children who are victims of domestic violence or who have witnessed it. Educating parents and community members about the effects that domestic violence has on children, implementing ways to prevent it, and offering support to families who have experienced domestic violence or abuse is one advocacy statement. Crime and violence are major issues that stem from unemployment and are often led out by youngsters in the Brownsville community. My second advocacy plan is to improve support services that offer educational or skill opportunities,

counseling, and job opportunities for youngsters in the community to lessen crime and violence.

Both advocacy plans tackle issues on small and large bases. Children and youth adults in the community deserve a chance at life, which should not be interrupted or robbed by crime and violence, or domestic abuse. These advocacy plans are ways in which families of children with exceptionalities, concerned community members, victims, education administrators, and elected officials can get involved to change the narrative of the community into one that they wish to see and live in.