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### Proposal

My non-profit volunteer opportunities are IGNITE Pantry and IGNITE Mentor, but I have been leaning towards IGNITE Mentoring. IGNITE Mentoring is a non-profit organization that send volunteers to an elementary school, Park Place elementary, and keep the children company after school. The children that stay back typically do not have a ride home immediately after school. Also, some of the students stay back to be transported to the YMCA. So, it is the volunteers' job to keep the children company and or help them with homework assignments. IGNITE Mentoring does a good job taking care and keeping the children busy. Although, the organization is doing a good job it can get better in some areas. IGNITE Mentoring should change the amount of time spent with the children, activities that are done, and provision for the children.

Although, the volunteers can not really determine the time that is spent with the children, it would be great to be with the children more. IGNITE Mentoring only meets one day, every Thursday, from 2:15 pm to 5 pm. Meeting once a week does not really help build a bond with the children. Also, the time span we are with them is never complete, some of the time goes to transporting ourselves to the elementary school. We are not equipped with a lot of time to impact these children. The more we are around, the more comfortable they will be with us. So, if we could visit the elementary more days in the week, I think it would be helpful.

Alongside adding more meeting times, IGNITE Mentoring should improve and plan more activities to be done. Apart from helping the children with issues completing their homework, I think there should be team building, fun activities, and games, that would keep the children excited for the next meeting time. The children should feel comfortable with the mentors, in order that to happen we must relate with them. Relating with them could be doing what they like best, playing games and having fun. I do not think the children should be doing their homework all the time. Although, it helps them get it out the way, a break is always good. We should plan activities every week before the meeting times to ensure organization and guarantee of doing them.

In addition to more meeting times and planning more activities, I think provisions should be provided for the children. During some of our meeting times, the children used to complain about being hungry. A suggestion to make sure that the children are not left to be hungry would be to bring snacks for them. In order for this to happen, mentors could all pitch in, in to buying snack for the children. Some that have vehicles could go purchase the snacks. This would make sure there would be no more complaints of hunger from the children. If the children are hungry, they would not be able to feel comfortable. Provisions are not limited to food items alone; they can be in the area of mentors. It would be helpful if there were more volunteers to be mentors. The more mentors the more coverage with the children. Imagine one mentor being assigned to like ten children. Not every child will get a connection. So, the mentors stepping in and making after school provisions would be a great effort.

IGNITE Mentoring is an overall delightful organization, but it is not perfect, and it could improve greatly. We only meet with the children once a week for fairly 2 hours at times. Although, we can not really interfere with the amount of time. We could always increase the

number of days of the week we go to visit and accompany the children of Park Place elementary. This would create a long lasting impression and bond with the children. The children would be more familiar with us. Children get bored all the time, so it would be appropriate that we should plan more activities. Planning more activities ensures that the children will have a fun and relaxing day after school. Lastly, having provisions ties up the goal of an enjoyable meeting with the children. If the children are not hungry, they will perform better and be more interested in the activities. In these areas IGNITE Mentoring could improve to making the meetings with the children a success.