Research and Learning Agreement

Between

Blue Earth Nicolette County   AND   Carol L. Glasser, PhD
Humane Society (BENCHS)   Instructor, Sociology in Action
                                             Minnesota State University

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This is an agreement to work together on a study assessing volunteerism at BENCHS. The study will involve a survey of volunteers, interviews with key staff and volunteers, a literature review addressing volunteerism, and a final report of the findings.

The goals of this project are to provide:
1. Useful research for BENCHS to better understand their volunteer base in order to promote retention and satisfaction among volunteers.
2. An applied learning and research experience for students studying applied and public sociology.

This research will be a collaboration between Carol Glasser, BENCHES, and students enrolled in Sociology in Action at MSU Mankato in the Spring 2019 semester. Glasser and BENCHS will begin the collaboration in December 2018 and incorporate students in January 2019. The final product will include a report, available in both print and electronic form, and a presentation by the students in May 2019. The project will be completed in May 2019, though BENCHS and Glasser may choose to extend this research further if they both agree.

Glasser will serve as the instructor for Sociology in Action and will be responsible for primary study design, completing all required paperwork for Minnesota State Mankato regarding the project, and working directly with students to provide them adequate training for the project. Glasser will also be primarily in charge of the study design, but will rely on BENCHS for direction

in the process of survey design and sampling and receive their consent before beginning the study.

Students, with guidance from both Glasser and BENCHS, will be responsible for completing a literature review, conducting the study, analyzing the data, completing a report, and preparing a presentation for BENCHS stakeholders. All students will complete service learning at BENCHS in the area of animal sheltering during BENCHS' regularly scheduled volunteer dog-walking opportunities, except in the case of allergies or other extenuating circumstances. In such cases other arrangements for an adequate service learning opportunity will be discussed on a case-by-case basis. Students will sign up for pre-determined days in January-March 2019 in order to ensure that BENCHS is not overwhelmed with too many students on a given day.

BENCHS will provide consultation and service learning opportunities. BENCHS will work with Glasser in December 2018 to develop the project parameters and will work with Glasser and Students from January 2019-May 2019 to consult on the project. BENCHS will identify nor more than three key personnel to meet with Students for up to 10 class periods in the spring semester. Days and times will be determined based on the individuals' availability and project needs. Classes meet on Tuesdays and Thursday, 3:30-4:45 pm, which is when most of these meetings will take place. However, other times for meeting can be arranged, depending on everyone's schedules and project needs.

Though Glasser will provide guidance, much of this project will be conducted and carried out by students. While the highest quality of work is the goal, it cannot be guaranteed. In the case that both Glasser and BENCHS agree that the work provided by the students is inadequate, Glasser will provide a revised project by July 2019.

Signatures verify an agreement by all signing parties.

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Carol L. Glasser, Ph.D.   Date

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NAME/ OF SIGNEE FOR BENCHS   Date