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Resource Paper

Monroe Library is located in the “communter town” of Monroe, Washington of Snohomish County. According to the City of Monroe website, The city has an estimated 18, 102 residents. 81.83% considers themselves White/Caucasian, 3.66% is Black or African American, 0.96% is Alaskan Native or American Indian, 4.29% is Asian, 0.45% is Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, 5.38% consider themselves Other, and 3.6% say they are two or more races. 77.36% of Monroe’s population speaks English at home, whereas 15.22% speaks Spanish, 4.99% speaks an Asian or Pacific Islander language, 1.88% speak Indo-European, and less than 1% speak other languages. The majority of the city’s population is between the ages of 16 and 50 years old. 30% of the older population has received no higher than a High School Diploma (or GED), but in the Hispanic/Latino community alone 23% of adults haven’t finished High School. Most residents drive alone to work and the trip takes on average between 10-30 minutes. The majority of these jobs are pro-profit and under the category of blue-collar construction. Monroe is currently under a huge debt to the county and because of that city improvements, financial help, food banks, and extracurricular activities are very limited for families and their children. (City of Monroe, 2012).

When choosing my resources, I looked for family, community, and financial-specific handouts because, in Monroe, that is what is needed most. First, I found three resources that helped people dealing with and recovering from illegal activities. The resources were Freedom Project, Snohomish County Health & Safety Network, and Narcotics Anonymous. The Freedom Project is a training program for prisoners and returnees about Non-Violent Communication and general mindfulness. Snohomish County Health & Safety Network discusses drug abuse, marijuana risks, and dating violence to High School students. Narcotics Anonymous provides locations of meetings and programs to help with recovery.

After that, I found resources that families with children (or even just families in general) would benefit from. These resources included United Way’s Parent Place, Housing Hope Properties, the GET Program, Cocoon House, Volunteers of America, Sea Mar Community Health Center, and DSHS. United Way’s Parent Place provides local resources for parents including training and classes as well as development programs for their children. Housing Hope Properties helps lower-income families to own their own home. The GET Program provides a guaranteed education tuition program for children starting from a young age. Cocoon House does case management, home visits, school support group and more for young, teen parents. Volunteers of America provide free referrals to licensed child care programs. Sea Mar Community Health Center and DSHS provide free or low-cost medical coverage for child.

After this I looked into some alternative recreational opportunities for all ages. I found a large list of locations from the East County Youth Advocacy Network that offers opportunities to be a mentor. Then I discovered a volunteer opportunity resource to work with Evergreen Hospice Services, which serves individuals with terminal illness and their families. Finally I discovered a resource for discounted VillageTheatre tickets (through the theater company) and a program called Camp Invention which is geared toward encouraging creativity in children.

I also made sure to find resources in Spanish because of the large Hispanic population there. The three Hispanic resources I found were from the City of Monroe (I also found an English version of the same resource), the Social Security Administration, and the Familias Unidas Latino Resource Center. Both the City of Monroe and Familias Unidas resources give a variety of help for different needs, which is important because it provides options. The Social Security Administration resource gives information about how to access and starting saving with Social Security (especially for new immigrants).

The best way to get this information to families will be to set the resource board at the information table near the entrance of the library. During the week day, I will also take time out of my schedule to stand at the information table and act a representative for my resources. There are also mailing lists I am able to use and newspapers and advertisements I can include my information into.

References

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