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Jury Project Proposal Update
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Last month I met with my three jurors to discuss my project proposal. We identified specific problems with homeless shelters that my project would solve. These problems included a lack of privacy and storage in homeless shelters. This lack of privacy leads to discomfort and unhappiness among the homeless, making their already grave situation worse. My project will seek to solve the problem of privacy and provide storage for personal belongings. Another problem that was discussed was the need for an individual space that belonged to a single person or family. Although the space would not be "owned" in a literal sense, the homeless people would be able to have a place to call their own. Having a place in the world can give a sense of purpose and meaning to a person who might otherwise have nothing.

After discussing various problems, we decided that each person or family would have a unit, much like an apartment. Each unit will vary in size to accommodate families or individuals. The units will be economical, but will be designed so they are places that show the significance of the individual that is to inhabit it. It is

necessary for each of the units to be more than a warm place to sleep, and they should be places that indicate that the person who lives there is not just a number. Beauty and craftsmanship should be valued in the design, because care and compassion for humanity should be evident in the building as an object. Each individual unit will provide an area for rest, a bathroom, and locked storage area for clothes and personal items, and a small kitchen so that the inhabitant can store and prepare their own food. Each unit will also include a small area to plant food or flowers, so that each person has the opportunity to have a small amount of green space of their own. The objective is to make each individual as independent as possible.

The units will be arranged around a hub that serves as the public area. The hub will be the access point to the community. As a space of congregation, the hub will be a place where food may be donated to the homeless. Small luxuries could be provided to the homeless to allow the homeless to divert their attention from their situations, such as television. Babysitting service could be provided to help mothers who are working or trying to find jobs. A job finding service could be provided as well.

I attended the Sandwich Ministry a few weeks ago and had the opportunity to speak with a very intelligent,

eloquent young man. I found it hard to believe that a person of his intelligence would fall onto such hard time. We spoke for a long time about my ideas for my design, and he pinpointed some important points that it would be necessary to include. He said that the most important thing to a homeless person seeking a job is an address and phone number. Many homeless people are able to put addresses and phone numbers belonging to their on job applications, but because they do not live there, they often miss calls from potential employers. He said that often people give the phone number of the Hope Center where they are staying, but when employers call the number they realize the situation of the person and no longer want to hire them regardless of whether or not they are qualified for the job.

My proposal will give each person in need an address and phone number and a place to temporarily call their own. Each person will be allowed to stay for a period of two months, which would be sufficient time to find a job and become financially stable enough to rent an apartment of their own. Since their time is limited at the shelter, the people will be motivated to find steady jobs.

The progress of my project has been slow thus far, but I plan to utilize my winter break to shoot video footage of interviews with homeless people. With the program

identified, I do not anticipate that the actual design of the project will take long. So far the experience of getting to know people who have been dealt a completely different hand in life has been eye opening, and I am now about to see myself as not at all different from other people who are in different situations as me.