

2024-25 HIGHLANDS COUNTY SINGLE SERVICE PROJECT

SERVING IT UP SAFELY

SERVICE NEED

Several Aktion Club of Highlands County members expressed a need to learn how to serve food safely so they could do more community service projects to help local organizations with serving food and drinks in concession stands, events and banquets. Local non-profit groups were requesting their help to either serve, set up or clean up in these food service areas. They also realize this training could help them in job placement as well.

PROJECT PLAN

In order for the club to be involved in any type of food service, they needed to be certified in a Foodhandler program. The advisor of the club is certified food manager and offered to do the four-hour training so the club members could be certified. Nu-Hope Elder Care Services had requested the club to assist with their 50th anniversary celebration by serving food in June so the club planned for the training to be in May. Nu-Hope serves elderly residents in the area.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Foodhandler books were ordered and a class time was set up after one of the regular meetings. There were 15 club members and three volunteers interested in being certified in food service. The club paid for the books so each member could attend at no cost. The four-hour class was taught at a level for people with disabilities to understand. Refreshments were offered half-way through the class.

At the end of the training, each member received a test with the instructor reading the questions so they could easily answer them. Everyone passed and received a three-year Foodhandler Certification.

Nu-Hope Elder Care Services was notified the Aktion Club food service team was ready to go.

One club member decided to build a wishing well with his brother to donate to Nu-Hope to raffle off during their celebration.

FINAL RESULTS

There were 12 club members who helped at the 50th anniversary celebration by either serving food and drinks to the guests, running dance contests and even helping with the cleanup afterwards. The wishing well was a big hit and several tickets were purchased with proceeds benefitting Nu-Hope.

Everyone in the community and organization appreciated the club's participation and eagerness to serve.

An award ceremony was held at the June Aktion Club meeting to recognize those members who passed the class.

Two members were able to use their certification at their place of employment to help advance in their jobs.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

The local newspaper featured stories and pictures of the members who passed the class and the 50th anniversary celebration where they volunteered. The club also has a Facebook page to keep people informed of their activities and they were featured there with their certificates and helping with the service project.

MEMBER IMPACT

Club members gained knowledge in food service to better serve their community and to obtain better jobs. They were able to show people that individuals with disabilities can do jobs in food service and do it safely. They were proud of their accomplishments.

ADDITION INFORMATION

Now, several more club members and volunteers want to participate in the next class. It was important to train the volunteers so they are equally informed on how to serve food safely, so they know how to work with club members in the community.