

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SHOWCASE

Honors Program

Irish Heritage School Service Learning



Program or Project Description

- For this project students from the Sac State Honors Program worked with the Irish Heritage School. Together we focused on improving the garden area of the Irish Heritage School to create a space for the local community.
- The objective of this program was for students to gain knowledge and skills through a service learning project with a community.



Program or Project Highlight(s)

- There were 15 total college students, 2 faculty staff, 3 Irish Heritage School staff, and one intern.
- As a group, we accomplished a multitude of tasks while in Ireland that included garden work, woodworking, painting, mixing concrete, shoveling gravel, cleaning up graveyards, and so much more.
- As a group, we were able to transform the space into something usable to be able to allow future generations of children to learn and immerse in their lost Irish heritage culture.

Cultivating Authentic Partnerships

- The partnership with the community of Birr was established by learning about the historical significance of the town and the role such small towns play in preserving the Irish heritage for future generations. From a community service perspective, we were able to help in the construction of historical reenactments in the Irish heritage school which would aid the children in local school learn about the Irish heritage in an interactive format. From the perspective of service learning, we were able to gain insights into Irish culture by actively engaging in activities for the children. Our undertakings were only a small step in the direction of building projects that will help the community on a larger scale in the future. On a broader scale, the students were able to learn about the importance of preserving smaller towns, which are dying off due to lack of attention from tourists since bigger cities attract the majority of the tourists in Ireland. Helping smaller communities like Birr will help bring focus on the stories that the place has to tell which otherwise would end up being overshadowed by urbanization. On a global scale, the project showcases the importance of small communities and their heritage amidst urbanization

Community Impact

- The impact the project has on the community is allowing the younger generations of kids to learn about Ireland's history through fun activities and games.



Campus Community Impact

- The impact of this project on Sac State students, faculty, and staff can be described as motivational. This learning experience we had with the IHS made a great impact given that we were able to help out the town's community and put smiles on the staff and children's faces.
- The CSUS students and faculty all worked together on a daily basis with even contribution towards the project we were completing at the Irish Heritage School. Our services included yard work such as cleaning up vines, raking, cutting tree trunks, building/painting fences, and overall keeping up the maintenance as we worked.