



# UL ENGAGE

## Community Briefing

2017 No. 22

**St. Gabriel's School and Centre**

**Ariel Rice**  
**Loretta Awiapo**



**UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK**  
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

**UL Engage**

**share**

**enable**

**grow**

Promoting University Community Collaboration



# THE BRIEF

## **Project Aim**

To come up with a form of media highlighting the importance of the building of a Respite Care Centre.

## **Project Objectives**

To reach out, assist, learn, enlighten, and formulate

## **Project Rationale**

St. Gabriel's is a non-profit organisation that has a centre that provides clinical interventions and therapy to children and teenagers with disabilities. Along with a school that provides post primary and primary education to about sixty peoples.

This project was centred around helping St. Gabriel's School and Centre raise funds to build a Respite Centre. The aim for this project was to help Kate Sheehan who is a representative for St. Gabriel's come up with a form of media that she could use to reach out to donors.

# COMMUNITY

## Overview of Community Organisation

St. Gabriel's vision is to support each child reach his or her maximum capacity, so they can live their life in a dignified manner. The target population is a substantial portion of the Midwestern Region of Ireland. They service people starting at birth to eighteen years of age, with a wide range of disabilities.



## Community Partners



Kate Sheahan- "I am the fundraising and development manager with St. Gabriel's. Amongst some of the duties and responsibilities my role involves developing and implementing a marketing strategy St. Gabriel's. I identify and research new fundraising opportunities; I engage with a wide range of stakeholders to win support from new audiences by securing corporate sponsorships. As well as preparing grant applications and developing volunteer led activities."

# STUDENTS



## **Ariel Rice- Edgewood College**

I am a fourth-year student attending Edgewood College in Madison Wisconsin. My field of study is Psychology and I plan to use my degree to work with disabled children. The ultimate goal would be to obtain a position in an Elementary School. Outside of school, I greatly enjoy spending time with friends and family. My hobbies include, running, reading, and watching movies. I also love my current job as a Respite Care Provider.



## **Loretta Awonlie Awiapo-Seattle Pacific University**

I am currently in my senior year at Seattle Pacific University, and I am a physiology major. My dream is to go to medical school and specialize in paediatrics. I am very passionate about global health and the health of less privileged children, especially those in developing countries; I am hoping to use my medical degree towards helping such people at some point in my career. I love to read and journal in my leisure time.

# OUTCOMES

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We came up with a video structure for St. Gabriel's in hopes that they can build off of the research and ground work that has been done.

# TESTIMONIALS

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“Engaging with Ariel and Loretta has been a very positive since they took on the St. Gabriel’s project. The objective of the project was to make a short promotion video that would give the viewer an overview of what St. Gabriel’s does.” -Kate Sheahan

“They met with me here in St. Gabriel’s back in September and got to understand the type of disability services that St. Gabriel’s provides, the work that is done with children, the various intervention programmes that are delivered and how are service impacts to improve the quality of life for these children and their families.” – Kate Sheahan

“Given the short time frame the students had to work within and combined with their other studies; I think they have done exceptionally well. They were engaging, interested and proactive over the period of time, and I only feel sorry that I was unable to give them more of my time. I hope the experience has been equally positive, enjoyable and worthwhile for them both.” -Kate Sheahan

# RECOMMENDATIONS

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- Students do further research on Respite Centres
- Students see that the video gets produced
- To complete the interviews with staff and parents
- Community make sure interviews are conducted
- Community/students stay true to St. Gabriel's mission statement and our vision
- Possibly utilize campus resources for filming ideas
- It is possible to achieve our goal and we hope others work towards that



# GALLERY



Therapy room for the St. Gabriel's Centre



Model of respite centre being built



Play area for the St. Gabriel's School



Building of the respite centre in progress

# APPENDICES

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St. Gabriel's School and Centre Annual Report, 2015.

CRCC video. (2016, January 20). In crccomaha.org. Retrieved from google

<http://crccomaha.org/>

## COMMUNITY VIDEO

This project was centred around helping St. Gabriel's School and Centre raise funds to build a respite centre. Our aim for this project at first was to help Kate Sheahan who is the representative for this community, come up with a way to pitch her idea to donors. This was the aim of our project for a while until we realised that telling the story of St Gabriel's and focusing on how far they have come, would be a better way to relay the relevance of the respite centre.

Our initial plan was to make a brochure, since brochures are a very convenient and popular way of relaying information. However, on second thought, we decided that making a video would be a more effective way to communicate the impact that this project would have on the St Gabriel's community and the Limerick community as a whole.

The idea of making a video was appealing to our community partner. Based on what we found upon further research, we realised that making a video took a lot of time, effort and skill. The lack of time was the most impeding factor, given that we only had three months to fit in interviews with parents and staff and other things which we planned to include in our video. Additionally, this is something the St. Gabriel's community has not done before, and so Kate wanted their first video to be professionally done.

In order to avoid shabby work, and to ensure that at the end of the day, St. Gabriel's got what they wanted, we agreed to Kate's suggestion of doing the ground work for the video.

We envisioned creating a video that included interviews with parents, the CEO, nurse manager and clinician at St. Gabriel's, pictures of classrooms as well as therapy rooms and equipment. Details such as questions for every interview, backdrops for every scene and the timing for every scene was included. Our group visited the St. Gabriel's school and centre multiple times to take pictures of classrooms, therapy rooms and equipment used for therapy. We also did mock interviews of the nurse manager and Kate Sheahan. Kate took us to the site of the respite centre to see what progress they had made and we got to take photos of that as well.

There were a couple of challenges encountered, but we learnt a lot along the way. During this project, we were challenged to be flexible in our thinking and be open minded. We also learnt to communicate and collaborate with associations outside our majors. This project provided us with an opportunity to immerse ourselves in an Irish community, and to work with passionate and inspiring people like Kate Sheahan.

<https://media.heanet.ie/page/a58a113f50c18359c4432df6328871a2>



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