

My group's goals for the truth commission were:

1. To create public awareness and to educate individuals on basic human rights violations: I think that we were able to reach this goal. Although the turnout was not record breaking, we were able to create some public awareness on basic human rights within our community. While attempting to complete certain tasks for the truth commission, I had the opportunity to speak to many people in to which each of them told me a story about how they felt their economic human rights had been violated.
2. To build a network of support: I don't personally feel that we reached this goal. The only way this goal can be attained is if we were to create some type of sub-committee in Chattanooga that had the availability to link people with needs to available resources.
3. To force both local and state government to take a closer look at the issue of housing and healthcare: pushing them to create and implement a workable law and of policy: Unfortunately, I do not feel that this goal was attained either I think that we were so focused on organizing the event that we lost sight of reaching the people and the politicians who could actually help us to create a change in Chattanooga.
4. To encourage and promote respect for human rights and the fundamental freedoms for all: We were able to reach this goal. I think that we were able to touch some people in the community. I feel that we did in fact encourage and promote respect for economic human rights and I think we were able to educate some people on their human rights whom may not have known that they even had economic human rights before.

Skills I learned during this entire process:

I feel that I learned many things during this entire process and some of them were some what unexpected. Some of the skills learned includes, problem solving, persistence, being proactive, patience (waiting for response emails), and passion. The passion is what surprised me the most. I realized the last several weeks into the process that I actually began to like chasing after reporters, commissioners, and donations and even though we didn't get much of any of those at the event, I enjoyed the chase. I learned how to be an organizer (the good and the bad) and I learned how to talk to people about their economic human rights. One of the most important skills I learned during this entire process was how to become a listener. Not just a listener but an active listener. I learned to listen to people tell their personal stories with an open ear and without judgment.

One negative aspect that I feel we experienced as a group was the fact that we became so wrapped up in the whole organizing part of the event that we didn't spend enough time recruiting people to actually attend the event. I think that this event could have made a deeper impact on the individuals in this community who really needed it the most.

Things to work on for the next event

Transportation

Nailing down more commissioners

Creating more public awareness

Creating more awareness for the political realm of the community

