LV SHARES
Anna Putelo, Chad Wallace, Rebecca Woods, Samuel Evers
Faculty Advisor: Professor Mark Orrs

Abstract:
Lehigh Valley (LV) Shares is a matchmaking service through which entities in the Lehigh Valley which have excess items, such as furniture and office supplies, connect with nonprofits and schools in the Lehigh Valley which need and/or want those items. LV SHAR ES originated as a Global Citizen Capstone Project by Sam Hau ('16) and Susan Kleman ('16) in the 2015-2016 school year. LV SHAR ES is also based on a similar program in Los Angeles, called LA SHAR ES, which was started by Lehigh alum Bert Ball ('76). After completing their project, Sam and Susan turned their capstone project into a Mountaintop experience. They hoped to sustain LV SHAR ES beyond their time at Lehigh so that it could become an actual organization serving the Lehigh Valley, while providing a learning experience which crosses multiple disciplines. Sam and Susan brought in Sustainable Development professor Mark Orrs as an advisor or the Mountaintop project as well as our undergraduate students. Thus, the team that would carry LV SHAR ES closer to reality was created. From May 31 to August 12, 2016, this team evaluated the need for a program such as LV SHARES in the Lehigh Valley through gathering insight from a variety of people from businesses, nonprofits, and schools. A survey was created and distributed in order to assess this need and collect insight. In addition, a structure or LV SHARES was developed so that it could continue after the summer had ended. During the fall semester, a separate computer science team will finish an online interface or LV SHAR ES. Overall, LV SHAR ES has grown significantly, developing many connections that will promote community engagement and waste reduction for years to come.

Mission Statement:
"...to connect organizations in need of office furniture/supplies with businesses that have excess. These connections keep furniture out of the waste stream while creating deep community relationships within the Lehigh Valley. In order to create working and harmonious partnerships, LV SHAR ES engages the community to remove the hierarchical relationship between donors and recipients."

Goals:
- Assess current community connections
- Build network of businesses, nonprofits, and organizations in Lehigh Valley
- Work closely with Bert Ball and La Shan
- Run a pilot exchange
- Quantify data using Qualtrics or a similar program

Potential Impact:
- Streamline management of surplus property.
- Connect both higher education institutes and local public schools with the community in which they are a part.
- Reduce waste put into landfills by 10-15% by reducing purchasing and disposal through reuse.

Future Works:
- Partner with LVAIC to train “champions” for our cause on each campus.
- Work small and locally, growing from each university base.
- Achieve nonprofit status.

Contact Information:
lehighvalleyshares@gmail.com
facebook.com/LVSHARES

Take Our Survey:
https://lehigh.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_db96sa8AGOvkvj