

**Anthony Wolff**

**Three Dots Community Center**

**Volunteered on 2/13/2024**

**Submitted on 3/20/2024**

## **Overview of the Experience**

I volunteered at Three Dots, which is a community event space located in downtown State College on February 13th at 4:30 pm. I volunteered to help set up, tear down and help operate their showing of a mongolian throat singing band who's name is "Alash". The main population I was helping to entertain was the general population of State College, and more specifically, people who were interested in experiencing something unique and possibly new to them. The show went from about 7:45pm to 9:45pm, but my volunteering "shift" ended at 10pm, after helping tear down the event.

## **Review of the Planning Sessions**

There were no planning sessions for this volunteer opportunity at Three Dots. I do not believe a planning session is necessary for future volunteers, as the work completed while volunteering was very simple, fun, and engaging.

## **Support From Three Dots**

When I arrived at Three Dots, I was given a quick introduction to all the staff who were helping out that night, everyone made me feel welcome upon arriving. They also granted me a chunk of time to go get myself food as I forgot to grab something to eat on the way there. When I returned from eating, Nico, who was the main staff member managing me, gave me the task of setting up chairs for the event. After that, Erica, the Executive Director of Three Dots, gave me the task of creating flower arrangements. Once one task was done, I went to be assigned another. Eventually, as the show grew closer, they ran out of tasks for me to do. Once the show started, my only role was to enjoy the music and routinely check the restrooms to make sure they were clean. I felt a little odd at times, as all the seats were taken and when I wanted to sit down, I had

to sit in another room and only listen to the music instead of watch. Nico insisted that I was ok to just relax and enjoy the music, but it still felt odd having nothing to do. I guess the issue of having too little to do is not a big issue at all, but that is the only thing that was lacking during my volunteer time.

### **Self Evaluation**

I felt my biggest success while volunteering at Three Dots was my efficiency at doing the tasks I was assigned. When I was tasked with setting up chairs, I got it done quickly and correctly. Same can be said for when I was asked to grab some chairs from Webster to use for the show. I got everything done quickly and correctly. What made me feel as if I had achieved something, was when the show started and I could see the fruits of some of my work paying off with all the chairs I had set up. My performance could be improved by being more active with my work and actively trying to find new things to do instead of relaxing once my current task had been completed. This was a good learning experience for being social and meeting new people and working with those new people. Being able to meet someone and immediately start working with them comfortably is a good skill to have and I felt I got some of that while volunteering.

### **Participants Reaction to the Program**

While Alash were performing, the reactions were extremely positive. There were a handful of people shocked at the vocal talent of the singers, as the sound of the throat singing may seem odd to a first time listener. I overheard many people's reactions to the show such as "That's insane!", "I've never heard anything like that!", and "How the hell do they make those sounds?". The way I would improve the experience of the participants would be to add more

seating. At that show, the room was completely full, and there really was not room for more chairs, but if there was just a couple more square feet of space everyone in the audience could have watched comfortably.

### **Overall Reflections**

What I would recommend to Three Dots for their next volunteer would be to try to have a more concise task list or set of jobs for a volunteer. Even though I did enjoy the music, I felt a bit like a useless lump at times and that made me feel bad about not helping out. If you had odd and end jobs for a volunteer to pass the time that would be much better. That is the only downside I found when volunteering at Three Dots, overall the experience was awesome and I would absolutely choose to volunteer again. A takeaway I have from this experience is that people are interested in new and foreign things. I personally thought that the turnout would not be that large for a Mongolian throat singing band in State College, but man was I wrong. The place seemed like it was almost at capacity. It was a very eye opening experience in that regard.