

University of Central Florida

STARS

High Impact Practices Student Showcase Fall
2024

High Impact Practices Student Showcase

Fall 2024

Empowering Lives : the positive impact of OCA's Arts, and Education Programs

Robert D. Hoel Jr

University of Central Florida, ro719848@ucf.edu

Find similar works at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/hip-2024fall>

University of Central Florida Libraries <http://library.ucf.edu>

This Service Learning is brought to you for free and open access by the High Impact Practices Student Showcase at STARS. It has been accepted for inclusion in High Impact Practices Student Showcase Fall 2024 by an authorized administrator of STARS. For more information, please contact STARS@ucf.edu.

Recommended Citation

Hoel, Robert D. Jr, "Empowering Lives : the positive impact of OCA's Arts, and Education Programs" (2024). *High Impact Practices Student Showcase Fall 2024*. 62.

<https://stars.library.ucf.edu/hip-2024fall/62>



EMPOWERING LIVES : THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF OCA'S ARTS, AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Robert Hoel

University Of Central Florida

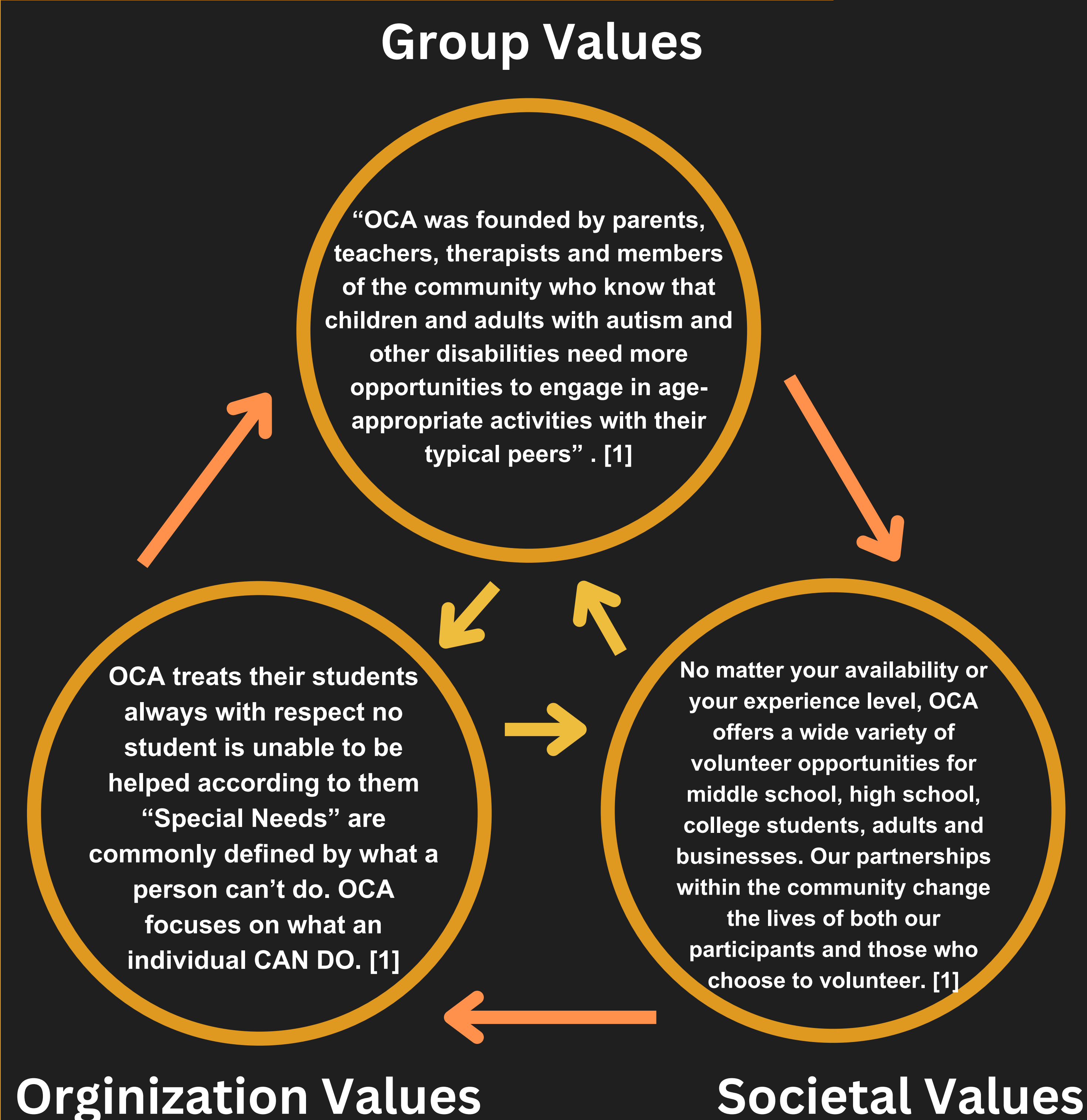
LDR3215-24Fall 0002



ABSTRACT

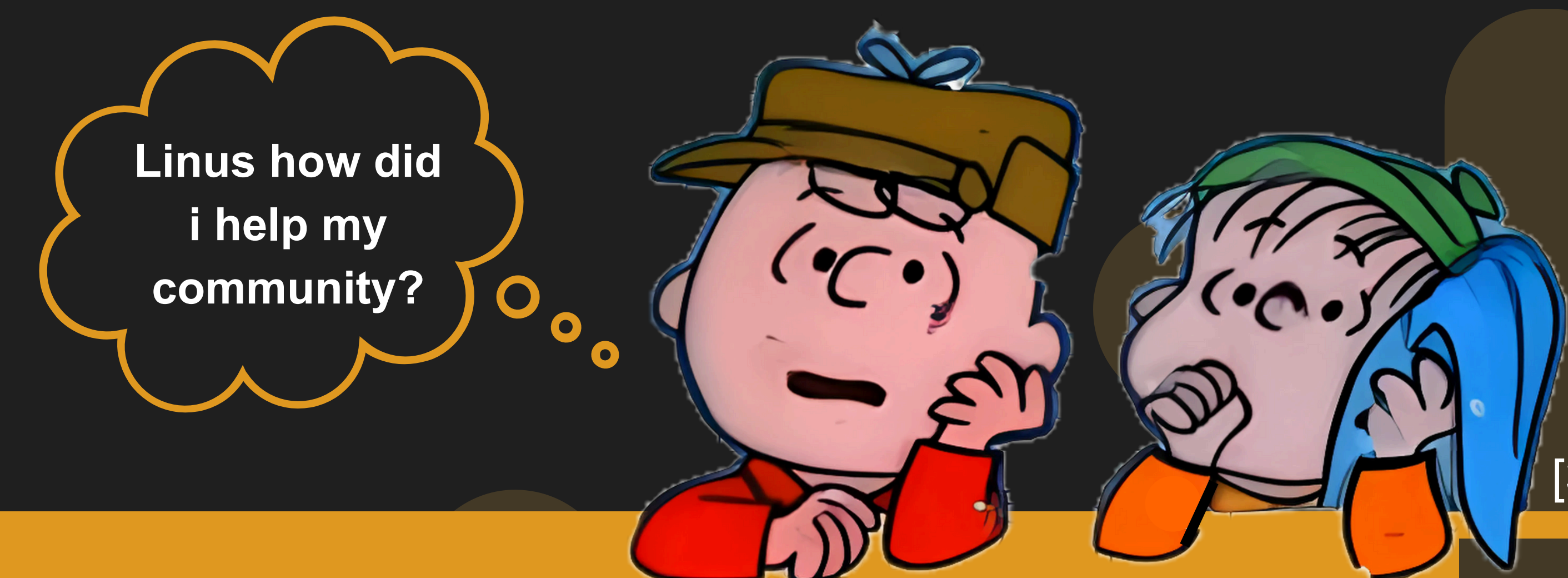
The purpose of this project is to explore how the Opportunity, Community, Ability (OCA) organization impacts the lives of individuals with a range of special needs, helping them develop new skills and strengthen those they may struggle to master. My primary approach involves direct communication with the director and volunteering at OCA events over the coming months. This firsthand experience allows me to observe the organization's impact on its community. Specifically, I chose to volunteer with OCA's Running Man Theater Program, as theater holds a special place in my heart, and I feel it's where I can make the most meaningful impact. Through my involvement, I've witnessed the staff's genuine care and belief in each student's potential, and their commitment to empowering them for success. This project aims to showcase OCA's remarkable contributions and highlight the transformative work they are doing in the community.

THE 7 C'S OF OCA



IMPACT

As a part of the Running Man Theater Group, I feel I've made a positive impact on the actors (taking inspiration from the Fish! model of work). I take the time to understand what brings joy to their day and learn about their individual interests, which helps me support them more effectively. I assist in calming any moments of anxiety or sadness, bringing smiles and teaching each actor something new every day. I've encouraged them to be more expressive and to unleash their inner thespian. Working with all 12 actors, I've helped them gain new skills and confidence on stage. This production not only brings joy to participants and audiences alike but also demonstrates that anyone can act and be part of a play, regardless of their abilities.



SKILL DEVELOPMENT

PERSONAL

- Adaptability is essential as a volunteer to meet the diverse needs of each day.
- I adjust my approach based on individual needs, whether an actor is experiencing an emotional episode or requires more direct guidance with instructions.
- Over time, I've learned what works best for each student and how I can effectively support them.
- This flexibility contributes to a smoother production process.

Students

- Student in Running Man theater develop valuable skills, including communication, coordination, and improvisation.
- They begin to understand and work on memorization requirements.
- For many, the program provides a deeper introduction to the world of theater, revealing new aspects of performance they may not have experienced before.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- Mrs Silvia Haas for showing me the wonderful things OCA has to offer
- Dr Stacey Maloret for introducing me to OCA
- Ms Bethany for being a outstanding director [1]
- All of the actors for putting their all into their rolls
- All of the crew putting effort into this production
- to OCA for having me apart of Running Man theater



REFLECTION

During my time with OCA, I have gained a deeper understanding of what it means to be a good person by helping others and bringing joy to their lives. My experiences have emphasized the importance of fostering an environment where individuals can develop both new and existing skills. For example, while volunteering during Halloween, I dressed in a fun onesie to add some lightheartedness to the rehearsals, aiming to spark joy among the actors. This approach reflects a commitment to intrinsic volunteerism, similar to the concepts we discussed in class about the Fish! Philosophy. Through my involvement in this service-learning project, I have developed a stronger sense of civic responsibility. I've learned to engage with others empathetically and with an open heart. As a result, I feel I am becoming a better citizen.

CITATIONS

[1] OCA(opportunity, Community,Ability). (n.d.). Home. OCA. Retrieved October 31, 2024, from <https://goooca.org>

[2] Inspire Uplift. (n.d.). Snoopy Christmas SVG bundle. Inspire Uplift. Retrieved November 3, 2024, from <https://www.inspireuplift.com/Snoopy-Christmas-Svg-Bundle/iu/394206>

[3] Snyder, C. (2022, December 19). Why the Bible scene in A Charlie Brown Christmas is so important. Collider. <https://collider.com/charlie-brown-christmas-bible-scene/>