How to Apply the Stone Soup Method to Campus Development

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Story of Stone Soup

Hungry travelers with nothing more than a cooking pot, water and a large stone manage to get townsfolk to contribute ingredients to the “stone soup” they were cooking.

As the soup boiled and was tasted, it always seemed to be missing something. A townsperson would remember that they had a carrot or onion at home and would bring it back for the soup.

Finally, after all the townspeople had each contributed something to the soup pot, everyone shared a great meal!

Moral of the story: Everyone benefits by contributing!
Stone Soup

Once upon a time in May 2017 on Cecil College’s campus...

• Trustee/donor Mark took a walk on the college’s athletic fields on which no improvements had been made for 20 years.

• Meeting of Mark, VP of advancement (Chris Ann), athletic director (Ed) and baseball coach (Charlie) to identify needs.
June-July 2017

• At the request of the donor, Coach gathers ideas for pole buildings he has seen at other community college facilities.

• Commit to an 80’ x 40’ practice facility.

• Don’t we need a concession stand?

• First blueprints of 80’ x 40’ facility with overhang for concessions.
Stone Soup

September 2017

• Building is growing to 60’ x 120’

• Having a better idea of cost, group begin conversations about funding the project. Mark knows a guy who can...Charlie has a baseball alumni who owns...Ed is sure Bobby will truck the stone in. Chris Ann can raise $$ towards...

...and the Stone Soup concept comes to life.
October 2017

• Finalize building plans and location.

• Create a strategic plan to general contract the construction.

• Solicit support of Cecil College, Cecil College Foundation and Cecil County government.
Stone Soup

October 2017 (continued)

• Develop a list of needed financial and human resources and assign the “asks.”

• Site excavation confirms the 60’ x 120’ building will just fit and that we will need to remove 15 loads of dirt.
Stone Soup

November-December 2017

• Solicit donations from individuals and companies.

• Permits received!

• Winter hits and we use the time to plan next steps.
Stone Soup

June 20, 2018

• Construction begins! Cost covered by donations.

• The skyline changes and people start to pay attention.
August 2018

• Facilities (outsourced partner) assists with stone dust for sub-floor.

• Spike Austin (baseball alumni) levels dirt floor.

• Mark figures out the electric issue – Vince Robinson and AUI Power (agree to heavily discounted service with balance covered by donations).

• Astroturf installed with help from college volunteers.
Stone Soup

September-October 2018

- Lighting engineered and purchased through Delmarva Power grant program.

- Drilling begins for main power supply.
November- December 2018

• Nickle Electrical installs interior lights at the “for you” rate supplemented by donations.

• Large breaker installed – the building has power!

• Final conversations about storm water management needs.
January 2019

• Crouse HVAC installs overhead heating at discounted rate for parts and labor.

• Dry wells installed.

• Committee plans ribbon cutting event for March.
  • Name still a secret
  • Sign delivery arranged
  • VIP event for donors, elected officials, etc.
January 15, 2019 Final building inspection
Original batting cage facility
Charlie O’Brien Practice Facility
Charlie O’Brien Practice Facility Ribbon Cutting
Charlie O’Brien Practice Facility Ribbon Cutting
Charlie O’Brien Practice Facility Ribbon Cutting
Charlie O’Brien Practice Facility Video

Questions?

We’d love to hear from you:

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