According to the Wall Street Journal (WSJ, 2019), youth suicide rates increased by 56% from 2007 to 2017 and 4 out of 5 of the teens gave clear warning signs before attempting suicide (JasonFoundation.com, 2019). With this amount of rise in suicides, communities have not been able to keep up on educating the community about warning signs of suicide and how to receive help. Research also indicates that 32% of high school students are in need of tutoring and only 8% actually receive that tutoring (EducationData.org). There are approximately 1,100 students in South Davis County who need tutoring each day. There is currently not a center close by to assist with either of these issues (Burgstahler, 2012).

The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH, 2019) stated that in Utah 2,435 teens are without a home and without a family member, they are all alone. There is not a facility within southern Davis County to assist with the needs of this growing up generation. According to the research, a facility of this type needs to be visible, in close proximity to those who need it, and comforting and calming upon walking in (Miller, et. al, 2020).

With these types of issues constantly on the rise in the community, the need for a facility close by where they can receive help is evident. The Bountiful City Library will be transformed into Salty Digs with the help of the Sky Foundation who is geared toward helping teens succeed. It will be a place for teens who need a home, a tutoring facility, a suicide awareness and prevention center, and a soda shop making it easy for teens to gather who need assistance in these areas.

The building will be designed to have these spaces work together for the benefit of the user. Research shows that open concept learning/tutoring spaces along with spaces available for private sessions and counseling promote education, learning, and healing (EducationData.org). The dorm area can house up to 32 teens at a time and will be designed to have its own entrance so users can have privacy. The soda shop will be an open space with many different seating options and a colorful mural wall that gives energy to the space where the community can mingle together promoting friendship and comradery for those teens who feel all alone.

Spaces 4 Learning states that repurposing structures into educational and administrative facilities breathes life back into buildings and surrounding neighbors (Kilpatrick, et. al, 2019). The goal of Salty Digs is to heal the community of teens by designing a building that functions to promote education as well as healthy mental living.

The Suicide Awareness Center will use calming hues of blue to help teens and parents/guardians feel at ease while there. There will be rooms to meet in separately as well seating for group interaction.

The Tutoring Center will have a large learning center designed for class style group interaction, private study rooms, and group tables to accommodate all aspects of learning.

The Dorms at Salty Digs will have all comforts of home. It is designed like a college dorm having their own room, desk, restroom, and common area with a kitchen and laundry facilities.

The Soda Shop will have bright colors to make the space feel full of energy and promote activity and interaction. There will be booth seating as well as table seating to accommodate different groups who will meet.