

Whitney Dawn

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### Community Service Reflection

Community Service, as you may all know is voluntary work intended to help people in a particular area. Well today I got the privilege to complete my community service assignment at The South Plains Food Bank. Not only was it a very rewarding experience, it was a lot of Fun! Our group was a large one, so we were split into 2 groups: the Freezer area and the Dry goods area. I was in the Dry goods area where we packed boxes. There were 18 boxes on one conveyor belt and another 18 on the other side. We were assigned a dry good and we went around with a shopping basket in order and placed our items in the box. They have a very strategic way of doing things and it makes so much sense, because you have to ensure everything fits nicely inside of the box and closes well. After you go around the belt and have placed your item in each box you go back and refill your basket and do it all over again. I believe they said we filled 486 boxes during our time there. Very impressive! The crazy thing is, it didnt even seem like that much. Time flies when you're having fun. The Food bank just celebrated with a gala in August of 2023 to celebrate 40 years of service on the South Plains. The Food Bank has a mission of ending hunger, giving hope and enriching lives. They have 3 main programs: Childrens Feeding, Mobile Pantry, and their Farm, Orchard and GRUB. The SPFB serves 20 different counties and to ensure to reach the entire community the Mobile Pantry was created. Food Boxes are handed out at the

food bank but also loaded into their trucks and delivered throughout the rural communities. The SPFB inc also extends opportunities for community members to both engage in service as well as for employment within an environment that promotes community interaction and who are enthusiastic in aiding the conclusion of the poverty cycle. The SPFB gets their funding from various sources with the main one being Feeding America, State and Federal grants, as well as local donations from companies such as Llano Logistics and HEB. Lastly, I have learned that I am blessed in more ways than one. There is always someone else in this world that may be going through something more challenging than I am, that has it harder than I do and that are less fortunate than I am. Today, while we were getting signed in and waiting on the others to arrive I saw a man come into the foodbank using a rollator walker, he was sitting on the seat of his walker and wheeled himself right in and grabbed a vest and was off to his duties. We were later told that this man comes in everyday that they are open to volunteer and has been coming for years. That is inspiring, because regardless of his health and ability to walk or move around without an assistive device, he still makes time to volunteer and give back to the community. Overall, today has been a very Humbling and Rewarding experience. I cant wait to do it again and next time include my daughter in this experience.