

On February 14th, 2023 I served at the South Plains Food Bank. It was an incredible experience knowing we were helping those in need. We packed over 400 boxes full of dry goods. They have a unique system that made packing the boxes very time efficient.

While serving at the food bank I learned how important this establishment is to our community and how many ways it serves low-income families and individuals. The Food Bank has been around for over 40 years and serves 20 of Lubbock's surrounding counties. My favorite thing that they do is provide a mobile pantry service to 19 counties. They deliver food boxes to individuals in isolated, rural areas so families can receive the help they need. They also have what's called a Commodity Supplemental Food Program for low-income seniors who are older than 60 years. This program helps the elderly population to receive the adequate nutrition they need. Another way they serve is by having a local farm and orchard to provide fresh fruits and vegetables. The farm is 5.5 acres and provides roughly 50,000lbs of fresh fruits and vegetables a year. The apple orchard was founded in 1994 and yields over 25,000lbs of fresh fruit to the needy every year. They rely on help from the community to keep the farm and orchard going.

The mission of the South Plains Food Bank is to alleviate hunger and give hope to the community, that is exactly what they are doing with the help of the community and their partners. There are several generous businesses who have partnered with the SPFB, some of these include local grocery stores like United and HEB. They also have donations through food drives though out the community. This experience has really opened my eyes to the need for this service in our region. The food bank reaches over 57,000 individuals every year. I was excited to help feed the hungry and learn more about what this organization does for our region. The South Plains Food Bank is truly a blessing to the South Plains.