

A Reflection of Community Service

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I chose to volunteer at the South Plains Food Bank on February 14, 2024. I arrived at the facility. We were greeted by an employee who provided us with information regarding the South Plains Food Bank and how it has evolved since the beginning. He stated that the South Plains Food Bank has been an active resource for food services for individuals and families in need for 41 years.

A local opportunity for the community to get involved in helping with this food resource were to have a Christmas Food Can drive every year. The schools were very big contributors to the can food drive. Students of all ages and all schools in the area participated in that event during the giving season. They have played a significant role in supporting people who were in need. The food bank has several different programs available to the community to enroll in for assistance.

They now provide mobile food bank pantries. It serves 19 counties and countless people who depend on this resource have easier access to the program. The mobile program has made it possible to reach more lives and provide nutritional food items for its participants. At the main location in Lubbock, people who need assistance enrolling in programs can go to the food bank and work with someone to complete forms for programs. They assist with WIC, SNAP, and Senior programs (for those 60 and older) to complete registration forms.

They have changed the yearly food drive to be by monetary donation rather than taking actual cans of food to donate. This helps to ensure that clients receive the highest level of food products. The program is "Food vs Funds" and donations are accepted at any time. The food

bank also receives grants on the state level. Other donation events/fund raisers help the food bank continue to be an important resource for our clients, friends and neighbors.

My experience at the South Plains Food Bank allowed me to have the opportunity to give back to the community. I have more appreciation for the food bank and those who work there and other volunteers. This opportunity provided a new perspective on how much work it takes to stay organized. They depend on the community to help and offer support throughout the year.