

Marcie Neudorf

Community Service Reflection

For my community service project, I chose to volunteer at the South Plains Food Bank. I chose this location because I felt it was a good way to make a real difference in my local community. During my time there, my group unpacked crates of mandarin oranges and loaded them into large boxes, which would be further divided by other staff/volunteers. We also packed pastries/breads into bags to be distributed to community members who receive assistance from the food bank.

The South Plains Food Bank was established in 1983. Over the years they have gone through many changes. They started in a 5,000 square-foot building with 28 supporting agencies and now run out of a 70,000 square-foot building and partner with over 170 agencies to serve the people of the south plains.

The South Plains Food Bank has established several different programs to reach different populations. Some of these programs include the Children's Feeding Program, the Mobile Pantry, and the Senior Box Program. The Children's Feeding Program focuses on providing snacks and meals to local children in need after school and over holidays. The Mobile Pantry delivers food boxes to rural locations around the south plains area. The Senior Box Program aims to provide food to locals over 60 years old. In addition, the South Plains Food Bank offers nutrition classes and has a small farm and orchard to offer fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables to residents.

The South Plains Food Bank is a nonprofit organization and receives funding from many local businesses including banks, grocery stores, and other cooperations. They also have over 9,000 volunteers per year serving over 40,000 hours of volunteer time per year. With the help of these businesses and volunteers, the South Plains Food Bank is able to serve Lubbock county and 19 other surrounding counties.

During my time at the South Plains Food Bank I learned, or rather was reminded, how good it feels to give back to those in need. At one time or another, we all need some kind of help, so I believe it is important to do your part to help others when you are able.