

Marissa Gutierrez

Community/Ancillary Reflection

I choose to volunteer with the Catholic Charity of Lubbock at their resale center. Catholic Charity of Lubbock has been around for over 30 years and serves the community in several ways. They offer many programs such as the Family and Youth success program, the kinship Navigation program, and the Parent Empowerment program.

The Lubbock Resale center is a thrift store where individuals can donate gently used items. When I arrived at the resale center, I was asked to sort clothes from donation bags. I was asked to sort through these clothes and sort which ones were okay to keep to resale. I also assisted the employees in pricing some of the items.

While the Catholic Charity of Lubbock program as whole runs off mainly donations, the resale center is self-sufficient, they can pay all the bills as well as pay their employees strictly through the re-sale of the donations. Any money left over is donated to the rest of the programs. The resale center helps the community in many ways. One of the first things they do is help families/people that are in emergency situations gather clothing and other supplies they may need short term to help them get through whatever they need to. They also help the community by helping low-income families/individuals get items they need for their homes, such as dressers, beds, kitchen appliances, utensils etc. People in the community can make wish lists and as those items come in, they are called to see if they still need them.

While I was in there sorting clothes and hearing the employees tell me about ways the resale center helps the community, I realized how truly blessed I am. I can provide for myself and family without having to worry about where I am going to receive the things I need. I am easily

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able to go out and buy shoes, clothes, groceries and other necessities for myself without relying on the help of others. It is easy to take these things for granted and right now with the stress of full-time work and school, I find myself complaining way more than I should. Being able to spend time helping at the resale center really opened my eyes to how lucky I am, and what other people in the community really go through. Lubbock is very lucky to have so many resources through the Catholic Charities of Lubbock.