

At the west Texas food bank in Odessa I was able to do a number of different things. I was able to participate in the morning and afternoon groups. During the morning session we were cleaning vegetables and making bags. These bags would later be distributed during the food drive later that day. When I attended the afternoon session we organized boxes of canned and dry goods. These would be given to our elderly community through another outreach program. The west Texas food bank was founded in 1985 and has served our community diligently. It served over 200,000 pounds of food to over 40 agencies in its first year. West Texas food bank is a part of feeding America the nation's largest hunger relief network and Feeding Texas. They hold them accountable with audits ensuring the highest quality of service. Through nutrition education programs and outreach initiatives, the food bank equips individuals with the knowledge and resources they need to make healthy food choices and lead more fulfilling lives. They have food drives, summer programs, kids cafe, baby formula programs and school pantries. They provide cooking classes and a senior program to help distribute food to the elderly. The West Texas Food Bank Odessa relies on a diverse array of funding sources to support its mission and service activities. These include government grants, corporate sponsorships, individual donations, fundraising events, and partnerships with local businesses and organizations. Additionally, the food bank leverages in-kind donations from food manufacturers, retailers, and farmers to maximize its impact and stretch every dollar further. Volunteering at a place that once helped my family as a young child has helped me appreciate programs like this even more. It's shown me the power of community and what we can achieve when we come together. It has taught me about gratitude and what really matters in life. Teaching me

the importance of empathy and compassion which I can use in my career. I hope to give those around me the same compassion and empathy once shown to me. Through this experience and meeting new people I have gained insight of what goes on behind the scenes and the humbleness of humanity.