

San Antonio Food Bank – Fighting Hunger Kaylee Pham, Biology, Spring 2021

SUMMARY

San Antonio Food Bank is a 501c3 nonprofit organization providing millions of pounds of food to those in need in Southwest Texas. Since January 2020, I started the community service with Food Bank, which is a judicious decision. My personal goal for this experience is to help people develop awareness and gain a better understanding of our community. The main mission of Food Bank is to be hunger fighters. I have spent most of my time in the community kitchen at the main location and at Haven for Hope. At the main location, the community kitchen is run with different programs such as Child and Adult Care Feeding Program (CACFP) – Kids Cafe and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). I usually scoop fruits/beans, make egg & cheese biscuits, and prepare meals for pre-K 4 SA. Two thousand meals are prepared daily. The target of this benevolent work is for children and people facing hunger. At Haven for Hope, the community kitchen is structured like a school's cafeteria, where we serve meals directly to people in need. I also spent my time at the warehouse, in which we packed and sorted all the donations with good expiration dates into the right categories. Then they can send them to those in need.



This experience reflects the key points of service. SA Food Bank has helped me gain the understanding of the value of community service. I have had the opportunity to help relieve and improve the hunger for the less fortunate in San Antonio.

Benevolent to the community by fighting hunger and giving hope. Honorable and Supportive by providing immediate solutions to locals and educating young generations.

SPICES

LEARNING **OUTCOMES**

This experience has taught me to become more caring not only for family but for the whole community. I used to ask myself if scooping these fruits everyday would solve the problem. After volunteering, I have realized that these small acts can provide many meals everyday. Teamwork divides the task and double the success. My self-confidence and communication skills have improved significantly since I have met and learned so many things from everyone.

HERBS



UTSA Honors College Experiential Learning Fair

Service

IMPACT

This experience left a huge impact on my perspectives of hunger and the less fortunate. I have gained a deeper understanding about the causes of these problems and how supportive SA Food Bank and other organizations try to be. The significant impact is on people facing hunger and children of small ages. Hunger can create difficulties for a child to fully function and to develop in everyday life. By providing food and nutrition, it not only helps a child's future but also our country's future.

ADVICE

"Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform *the world."* The purpose of life is to give love and care. Your smallest act of kindness can really make a difference not only for our presence but also our future.