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Three Square and I
by: Alina Del Puerto
What I have experienced here

Through my own participation, I was able to look behind the scenes and join in on the food distribution. While analyzing what was going on around me I had noticed some people had joined due to duty, while others did it just for fun or to help out. Productivity was great none the less. Packaging food, and cleaning the areas to insure they are prepared to distribute the food and that it was produced from a safe zone was reassuring. I would not have wanted to continue if the food was not up to par, or if there were not stored in a clean environment. Overall the experience was refreshing and knowing that it is all for feeding the hungry puts me in a better mood. Meeting new people is fun and seeing them communicate can be entertaining.

References


Caputo, Anna; Easter, Rich; Rosas, Rosa; and Sakurada, Mark, "Food Rescue Program Evaluation Three Square Food Bank" (2016). UNLV Theses, Dissertations, Professional Papers, and Capstones. 2839. http://digitalcommons.unlv.edu/thesesdissertations/2839


The Issue

• In southern Nevada, children and adults suffer from food insecurities.
• One of the main causes of food insecurity is poverty. “Poverty, unemployment, and income, along with other demographic characteristics, are key drivers of individual and household food insecurity across the country.” (Hunger In America 2014, page 7, paragraph 3)
• Poverty rates have increased due to recession in the economy
• Some may not even have any income at all “An estimated 13 percent of client households have no income” resulting in the need for assistance in any way they can get( Hunger In America 2014, page 3 paragraph 2)
• Most of the time, people who are barely making ends meet do not have the option to make healthy food, “That results in poorer families relying on nearby fast-food options instead of traveling farther to buy healthier foods” (Davidson)
• With children going hungry throughout the day and only being provided with one meal can reduce their learning and productivity “During schooling years, nutritional deficiencies directly undermine students’ cognitive capacities” (Janice Ke MSc1 and Elizatheth Lee Ford-Jones MD2)

Making a difference

• They address the problem by making efforts to be a complete, non-profit organization, utilizing other partners for support in their endeavors, “Three Square receives food through various channels, including donations by individuals and organizations, and by collecting unused food items from grocery stores” (2014 Census Report, page 9 paragraph 1).
• They may not be able to provide financial help or access, but they have been known to give a supporting meal, food packages and backpacks for kids.
• In the Census Report 2014 it states, “SNAP is the largest nutrition assistance program, supplying millions of meals in Nevada through direct purchase from low-income customers” (page 11, paragraph 4) three square gives credit, utilizes other resources, to provide and nature the people of, not only Nevada, but America as a whole. With this in mind, Three Square is motivated to continue their programs, and to continue rescuing food. Three Square offers in fully; food bank distribution, offering a food bank program, along with food and rescuing program; childhood nutrition.