

4-30-2018

Volunteering at Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada

Thu Pham

University of Nevada, Las Vegas, phamt4@unlv.nevada.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/educ_sys_202



Part of the [Education Commons](#), and the [Service Learning Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Pham, Thu, "Volunteering at Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada" (2018). *Second-Year Seminar Posters (COE 202)*. 54.

https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/educ_sys_202/54

This Book is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Scholarship@UNLV with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this Book in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/or on the work itself.

This Book has been accepted for inclusion in Second-Year Seminar Posters (COE 202) by an authorized administrator of Digital Scholarship@UNLV. For more information, please contact digitalscholarship@unlv.edu.

Thu Pham Volunteering at Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada

Introduction

History and purpose of Service Site:

- 1941, founded by Bishop Thomas Gorman
- Purpose: service for the homeless and needy, family programs, adoption services.

Meals On Wheels:

- The Meals On Wheels Tray Line Volunteer assists 2,300 clients each day.
- Task: placing appropriate portions of food items on individual trays.
- Provide a set of seven frozen nutritious meals once a week to homebound seniors 60 years and older.
 - Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

COMMUNITY MEAL AT ST. VINCENT LIED DINING FACILITY

- Provide meal service to homeless and vulnerable men, women and children.
- Prepare an average of 1,000 nutritious meals in a clean and safe environment each and every day of the year.
- Volunteer duties may include distributing serving trays; serving food; providing table service to clients with physical disabilities; washing/sanitizing used dishes and trays; wiping tables; sweeping/mopping floors and more.
 - Daily, 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Community Service Paradigm

HANDS OF HOPE COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

- Let families in need as they shop for food items, fresh produce, baby goods, and hygiene items in a supermarket setting FOR FREE.
- Volunteer duties may include greeting, welcoming and assisting shoppers; sorting donations, checking for expiration dates, removing outdated/spoiled produce; stocking shelves; bagging groceries; cleaning; sweeping/mopping floors, general tidying.
 - Monday – Saturday, between 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m

Social Issue Research

- Social Issue Addressed: homelessness, hunger, adoption, refuge shelter and immigration (Homel,2014) & (Clausing, 2010) &(Davis, 1989).
 - Current state: 18 programs helping 5000 people everyday (CCSN report).
 - 2017 annual report: adoption service (12 children), homeless to home program (shelter for 562 people), food service (more than 735,550 meals for homebound seniors, 800 meals daily at dinning center), immigration service (962 jobs, classes with computer lab for 1894 students.) (CCSN report)
 - Ideal State: no more hungry and homeless people, everyone could be self-sustained (CCSN report).
 - Catholic Charities' Approach to Issue: utilize an enormous source of donation to help people in an organized way through registration process (CCSN report).
 - My approach to the Issue: I would do exactly the same what the Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada is doing to mitigate Nevada's social issues. It is a big organization and has been around for more than seventy years. Therefore, their system is very good.

Reference

- "Hormel Foods Donation Helps Fight Hunger in Nevada; Burke Corp. Hunger Relief Donation." *ENP Newswire*, 21 Feb. 2014, pp. ENP Newswire, Feb 21, 2014
- Clausing, Jeri. "Vegas: Nevada Can't Afford Ariz.-Type Immigration Law.(NEWS)." *Travel Weekly*, vol. 69, no. 26, 2010, p. 1
- Davis, Edward W, and Conference of the Inter-University Consortium on International Social Development. *Homelessness in Las Vegas, Nevada : an Empirical Assessment of Poverty amongst Plenty*. S.n., 1989!
- Catholic Charity of Southern Nevada annual report 2017. <https://www.catholiccharities.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/ccsnAnnualReportFY2017.pdf>. Accessed 18 April, 2018.

Service Learning Experience & Making a Difference

- **Service to Community:** I volunteered at Meals On Wheels and Food Pantry programs. Meals On Wheels is a program in which we measure portions of different group of food and package them into a sealed frozen meals container for homebound seniors. At the Food Pantry program, I got to help low-income shoppers checked out and carried loads of grocery to their car for them because they could not take the shopping carts outside the pantry.
- **Semester Reflection:** the take-home lesson I got from this experience is that it is hard to balance between work and school and volunteering. However, it was a very eye-opening experience I had at the Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada.
- **Expectations:** I expected the volunteering activities to be more laid back. But all of the volunteers and the staffs were very fast in what they were doing and attentive to taking care of the people in need.
- **Differences in My Own Views:** I was overwhelming by the amount of people that the charities are providing service to. Everything has to be calculated and fast-paced to meet people's need.
- **Differences I Made for the Site:** I am only one out of hundreds of volunteers the Catholic Charities have. In 2017, almost 35,000 hours were provided to the charities by volunteers. It is not just one volunteer that could make a difference at the site. It is the power that we, volunteers, generate together that is improving others' life.
- **Personal/Professional Learning:** I learned how to interact with people efficiently through volunteering at the Food Pantry program.
- **Future Change, Effort, and Outcomes:** I have not volunteer at the Vincent Dinning Facility. I would try to volunteer there to get an idea of what is it like to serve that many people in a short amount of time.