Three Square Food Bank

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HISTORY & PURPOSE
• Three Square, previously known as Clark County Food Bank, opened in 2007 (Benito).
• Non-profit organization that remains Southern Nevada’s only food bank (Three Square).
• Three Square provides food assistance to residents that suffer from food insecurity.
• Mission Goal: “provide wholesome food to hungry people, while passionately pursuing a hunger-free community” (Three Square).

COMMUNITY SERVICE PARADIGM
• Three Square aims for social change, but falls more into charity.
• Charity “creates a long-term dependency of those served on those with the resources” (Morton).
• Social change is “about empowerment of the systematically disenfranchised” (Morton) by helping people do for themselves.
• Three Square only provides food as a solution to hunger, which enables the abuse of these systems.
• Little is done to change the underlying cause of hunger: poverty.

SOCIAL ISSUE
• The social issue at hand is hunger due to food insecurity.
• 12.3% - the national average of the U.S. population that face food insecurity (USDA).
• 13.4% of the population in Clark County are food insecure (Three Square), this is higher than the national average making this a concerning matter for our community.
• Underlying cause of food insecurity is poverty; “income is clearly one of the most important determinants of food insecurity and hunger” (Rose).
• Ideal State: No one in the community faces hunger.

APPROACH TO CHANGE
• Three Square addresses this issue by providing food to the people who unfortunately do not have the means of obtaining it on their own.
• They collect funds/food through donations, then organize and distribute the product to program partners that then reach out to those in need.
• With the help of many generous donors and volunteers, in 2017 Three Square was able to distribute “more than 36 million meals, the equivalent of more than 44 million pounds of food and grocery product” (Three Square).
• I believe that Three Square should also aim “more effective responses, ideally addressing the severe and chronic poverty which underlines household food security” (Tarasuk).

References
• Benito, Marjorie. Personal Interview. 7 March 2018.

SERVICE CONDUCTED
• During my service hours I helped: organize & package meals/groceries for later distribution.
• I made a difference at this site by lessening the time/labor it would take to complete the task.

REFLECTION
• I’ve previously volunteered at Three Square so I knew what to expect: Tedious work, communication is key, have fun!
• On a professional level I learned how to communicate and problem solve with others.
• Volunteering has strengthened my view of the importance of giving to the community.

FUTURE?
• I believe that Three Square has successfully provided food to the community.
• I believe that in order to eradicate hunger they must address the underlying cause: poverty.
• They should provide other services: job search program, closet for interviews, budgeting classes etc.