11-28-2018

DASH: Delivering and Serving Hope

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Recommended Citation

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Introduction

History & Purpose:
- DASH is a subgroup apart of a larger organization - UNLVolunteers
- UNLVolunteers is a service-oriented organization led by UNLV students that encourages others to become more aware of social issues.
- The main purpose of DASH is to reach out to the community with simple acts such as giving food, giving service, and helping those in need

Community Service Paradigm:
- This site fits under the charity paradigm “…begins with an individual grounded in a community.” (Morton 26)
- Though the site is carefully managed, strategically planned and occurs multiple times throughout the year, it is a temporary solution to a bigger issue
- UNLV students, staff, and faculty come together to pack and deliver lunches to The Las Vegas Rescue Mission to serve the homeless

Issues:

Homelessness & Food Insecurity affects many groups of people across the country:
- Families make up 32% of the homeless population (Bassuk)
- 2.5 million households that include at least one senior in America are suffering from food insecurity (USDA Report)
- Those suffering from a mental illness were reported to be one-third of the homeless population (Martin)
- In 2015, 13.1 Children were reported living in food insecure households (Ralston)

Ideal State:
- Site Coordinator Cath Roldan was questioned about what the ideal state of the world would be if these issues were solved; she stated “A better and worthier place to live and with more equal chances to opportunities”
- No one would worry about where their next meal is coming from or not being able to put a roof over their heads

Service Learning & Making a Difference

Service to the Community:
- During my service time I helped make sandwiches and pack lunches for the homeless
- I was then driven to the Las Vegas Rescue Mission to hand out the packed lunches where I directly interacted with those suffering from homelessness & food insecurity

References


Semester Reflection:
- I definitely feel like my work made an impact. Though that impact may be temporary, getting the chance to repeat my service made me feel like my impact in the community was growing
- I was able to directly see how food insecurity and homelessness are affecting men, women, teens, and families, but most importantly I was able to give my time to these people in need.