

University of Central Florida

STARS

High Impact Practices Student Showcase Fall
2023

High Impact Practices Student Showcase

Fall 2023

Addressing Community Engagement in Combatting Hunger

Hannah Mason

University of Central Florida, masonchannah13@gmail.com

Find similar works at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/hip-2023fall>

University of Central Florida Libraries <http://library.ucf.edu>

This Service Learning is brought to you for free and open access by the High Impact Practices Student Showcase at STARS. It has been accepted for inclusion in High Impact Practices Student Showcase Fall 2023 by an authorized administrator of STARS. For more information, please contact STARS@ucf.edu.

Recommended Citation

Mason, Hannah, "Addressing Community Engagement in Combatting Hunger" (2023). *High Impact Practices Student Showcase Fall 2023*. 76.

<https://stars.library.ucf.edu/hip-2023fall/76>



Addressing Community Engagement in Combatting Hunger

Hannah Mason

University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL

Abstract

A pressing and often overlooked social issue happening in the United States and around the world is that of hunger. This poster is on the extent to which citizens of the United States and the world overlook and do not acknowledge the social disparity of hunger and food occurring in front of them. When I heard the topic of hunger and combatting hunger, the choice was simple. I was going to research more. I partnered with Second Harvest Food Bank and have been gifted the great opportunity of volunteering to help those in need the community of Central Florida.

Course Connection

Throughout my semester in the course Leadership Through Service I have learned immense knowledge on how community engagement is crucial for citizens and their well being and growth as a society. The knowledge of what “the citizen” is has allowed me to excel in my experience as a volunteer at Second Harvest Food Bank. I found that the values of the organization align with mine as well as their slogan “fighting hunger, feeding hope.”



Community Impact

Second Harvest Food Bank is an extremely impactful organization that accepts donations such as money and food to help those less fortunate around Orlando. They also package and distribute meals all over Orlando and Central Florida. I saw first-hand the impact that the community felt because everyone working there had a smile on their faces and their attitudes were wonderful as well as their urge to help pack and distribute meals properly. The people I volunteered for came together as a community and excelled at packaging over 1,000 boxes in just under 3 hours.



Reflection

What a great experience it was to volunteer at Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida. Thousands of meals are packaged and distributed daily and to know I had a hand in it was amazing. I felt as though I was combating homelessness and food scarcity.

Second Harvest was founded in 1979 and what an impact it still has today is inspiring. According to Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida, it “is a private, nonprofit organization that collects, stores and distributes donated food to more than 625 feeding partners in seven Central Florida counties: Brevard, Lake, Marion, Orange, Osceola, Seminole and Volusia.” To know I assisted in this movement has a real service-learning impact and personal impact on me.



Civic Responsibility

Civic responsibility can take multiple forms: voting, jury duty, following laws, etc. In this case, I was active in combatting hunger in my community. As a student at the University of Central Florida as well as a member of the LEAD Scholar’s Academy I feel as though it is my civic responsibility to participate in my community, especially taking the service-learning course in LEAD. I feel honored to be able and capable to participate in volunteering for the Second Harvest Food Bank. I am fortunate enough to be in the position to help those less fortunate and I feel it is everyone’s civic responsibility in their community to get involved.



References

(N.d.). Second Harvest. Retrieved from <https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Ftwitter.com%2Ffeedhopenow&psig=AOvVaw0GpTzYePctWh7sB9OjSkMe&ust=1700624702990000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CBIQjRxqFwoTCOidiPCW1IIDFQAAAAAdAAAAABAJ>

(N.d.). Second Harvest. Retrieved from <https://www.hbkengineering.com/sites/default/files/2023-08/Volunteer%20Second%20Harvest%20food-8.jpg>

(N.d.). Civic Responsibility. Retrieved from <https://blog.mimio.com/hubfs/Blog/CC CivicResponsability-01.png>

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank my professor Shemeca Smith and all those who volunteered and assisted me in my service-learning experience.