

# **COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD**

Submitted By

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Community service involvement is an irreplaceable virtue of leadership. Community service involves volunteering to people of all ages and backgrounds showing compassion and understanding to what you are doing. As student leaders, engaging in community service provides us with the opportunity to become active members of the community and leave a lasting positive impression on society at large. The effects of community service are not always seen first hand but the impression never leaves.

One beauty about community service is that it encourages us to work with others, build communication skills alongside resume and field training. Additionally, community service enhances our personal knowledge, experience, problem solving skills, time management and adaptability in our day to day lives. Another beauty of community service is its ability to train leaders to be servants. When we engage in community service, service being the keyword is a training ground for leaders to be effective servants in their positions.

El Centro's student government Association has made sure to imbibe community service as a vital part of our involvement. Every semester we walk towards leaving an impression in our community and the ones around us. As an organization every year we have over 100 hours of community service that we participate in. This helps us be active all year round. Our chapter can testify that community service has made our student leaders develop a civic and social responsibility and also become more aware of the needs of our community.

One of our largest community service outreach each year is, feast of sharing: Annual Holiday dinner. Feast of Sharing is the culmination of a year-round commitment that the company H-E-B makes to fighting hunger. In addition to a holiday meal there is live music, arts and crafts, and kids activities. An average Feast of Sharing dinner serves 3,000 pounds of sliced turkey, 2,500 pounds of cornbread dressing, 750 pumpkin pies, 380 gallons of mashed potatoes, 140 gallons of turkey gravy. It happens once a year during thanksgiving. It is held at the Fair park for maximum capacity. Various organizations all come to together to make this a big event. There are many vendors, there are many arts, many giveaways, and a lot of entertainments that all goes into that 4 hours of serving.

There are so many areas that volunteers are needed. There were vendors who needed assistance in arranging their things. There was a section for children that needed volunteers to keep an eye on them as they played on the bounce houses, and as they all queued up to enjoy the games. There was also a need for volunteers to usher people in at all the entrances into the building. More volunteers were needed to take care of the dishes and cutleries all needed for the feast. Another set of volunteers were needed for decorations, because of the size of the building this took a lot of work and a lot of hands. However, everyone wanted to volunteer as a server. Everyone wants us to get a tray of the food or the drinks and walk around and share it because this was the most instantly rewarding part of the event. As you walked around with the tray of food people raise their hands to get more. As they eat, they smiled and dance to the live music being played today entertainmen. there were a lot of gest, laughter and sharing.

This event is loved by El Centro's Student government chapter because it is service on a big scale. The motto for HEB is "we are in the business of people we just happen to sell groceries." at the end of this program it's all about the people

and how they feel after encountering us at fair park. Working with the children was more hectic because of the high energy that the children had. We were all excited to jump and throw a ball. This also required us to be very attentive because children got shoved and pushed. Serving at the children's activities area required us to pay attention even in the crowd.

While rotating positions some of us had the opportunity to work with the disability service for this event. we stood at the doors and made sure all those who needed wheelchair access received it. Due to the size of the auditorium those who also needed a wheelchair to move around easier, but didn't have one, were also given the opportunity to get one. We also had to work with the security department to keep count of how many wheelchairs went in and how many were coming back out. The wheelchairs were all donated by a separate organization, this was one good example of the networking aspect of this event.

After the feast was over, we cleared up the tables, the food, the decoration, and trash, while laughing at the highlights of the evening. The vendors cleared out, we took down tables as we greeted other volunteers around, packaged the trash for send out and took a lot of pictures with the freed-up space from cleaning. Getting to see the auditoriums size with so many people in it is one of the most thrilling part of night. It reminds us of how vast the number of people we served.

Volunteering for community service is an amazing job, because even though we do not get paid, we find joy in doing it, seeing as it involves all ages and race. Volunteering is all about your mind set, it is about how willing one is to get a job done because if one keeps thinking about how they do not get paid, they will never get the job done.

Here are some people we took during the event





















