

This spring I was offered one of twelve spots, out of 50 applicants, to go on a five day Alternative Spring Break service trip to San Antonio, Texas. The first two days were spent working at one of the largest food banks in Texas. We spent the first day sorting through food and checking to make sure all of the food that was distributed to the families was still healthy and safe. In addition to sorting food, another volunteer and I were given the job to weigh the completed boxes. At the end of the day, the food bank worker who was directing us and working alongside us totaled the weight of all the food we packaged. Not only did the group I was in with other volunteers achieve our daily goal, but we also reached the food banks monthly goal. One of the food bank's coordinators continued to explain to us how all the food we packed can make a little more than 26 thousands meals for food insecure families around their community. Hearing those numbers was chilling. Every day, my family and I eat three wholesome and nutritious meals with thinking twice. Hearing the stories of these families makes me realize how privileged I am to have something to eat each night, and makes me think of those who are not lucky enough to live in an area with a food bank and what means they have to go through to get food. Working at the food bank and seeing how a few hours of my day can help other people is very humbling and encouraging. Prior to the school year being shortened due to the rising Covid-19 pandemic, I was in the midst of putting together a presentation to show my coach and co-captain why we should also go and volunteer at our local food bank. I am currently working towards completing my BA in Psychology with both Women's and Genders Studies and Art minors, during my time as an undergraduate I also will be taking additional classes that will credit towards my additional year at Drew University to achieve my Masters in Education. In the near future I would like to be an elementary school teacher and I hope to find a workplace that fosters new ideas in children and makes learning fun.