

Community Work and Learning

Fall 2021 Symposium



ST. CATHERINE
UNIVERSITY

Community Work
and Learning

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Impact of Work:

Throughout the summer and fall semesters of 2021 I worked with the St. Kate's, CSJ Food Shelf to combat food insecurity. The work we did helped students and community members to gain access to food and security via the food shelf. Our work is also targeted toward Whitby Clinic clients as well. In doing food insecurity work, we also worked to protect students and community members from COVID-19 via mitigation measures. We have been very focused recently on attempting to decrease stigma surrounding food insecurity to make students feel more comfortable accessing the food shelf and all of its assets. Reducing food insecurity will help to increase our clients and impact so that more clients feel able and ready to access all assets of the food shelf.

Personal Growth:

All of the work completed in my time at the Food Shelf has been crucial. No job is too small or insignificant. Stocking the shelves ensured food to the clients, bringing in the deliveries ensured food was able to be distributed, helping at the garden gave access to fresh and reliable food, data work ensured we were accurately providing for our clients and ensured we had accurate deliveries and access. Each step of the process is crucial to providing for the community and students. During my time at the Food Shelf I learned how to value each aspect of the process. Although a task may seem small or insignificant it plays into a larger picture and must be completed to ensure progress.

Career Impact:

A majority of the work I did in my time at the Food Shelf was data and grant work, along with the typical gardening and stocking help. The grant writing aspect of work will be the most applicable to my future work. It is crucial that I understand the process of grant writing and all aspects that go into the process before attempting to undertake such a lengthy task. In my time at this position, I learned how to write grants and how to better describe the assets and work of the Food Shelf. In addition to this, the data reporting and management completed during this time was useful to boost my google sheets familiarity. A majority of my work included reporting our monthly totals to our distributor, which taught me how to go through this reporting process.