

Feeding South Dakota Testimonials

Ashley N.

"I had always noticed the Feeding South Dakota building however I had no idea what it was for, who it was for, or what the business did for the community. What was very interesting was finding out that they make 'backpacks' for hundreds of children. Knowing that they drive all the way out as far as piedmont and all into rapid is mind-blowing; I had no idea how Feeding South Dakota impacted so many different counties in the surrounding area. This resource is very interesting to know for my future patients. As nurses, we spend a lot of time with our patients and conversation is bound to happen. Most likely patients are going to open up to you and let them know their problems. This would be a perfect resource for low-income families or families that struggle to pay bills, let alone get groceries."

Taylor N

"Reflecting on my experience today, it is hard to see past what truly impacted me the most during my day, leaving with a car full of food. I got to see first-hand how it felt to receive not only food, but nutritious and healthy food. And so much. Everyone was so gracious and understanding of my situation, I am still in shock and awe. Knowing that I do not have to stress over money and food is a huge weight off my chest. I can only imagine how some families feel being able to come home to their children with food, grateful. I have some amazing friends and Feeding South Dakota has some amazing faculty. More clinically related, today we did blessings in a bag. In the assembly line I was in charge of the fruit cocktail and pudding, and let me tell you, I may have PTSD type symptoms next time I see either one. We bagged so much food; I had never seen anything like it. I had to stand on my tip toes and reach into the crates. But as I started to think negatively about how tired I was getting, I remembered what it was all for. How this is only a fraction of the children that go home from school on Friday and do not eat again until they go back on Monday. It makes the aching shoulders and tight calves well worth it knowing that in a way, I can pay it forward."

Tara M

"An overall summary of my experience at "Feeding South Dakota" is described by three words Selflessness and Hard Work. This describes the individuals who run this facility. The individuals who run this facility display qualities such as: compassion, humor, understanding, servanthood, and hard work. My daily experiences at this facility included meeting and helping people who come and need food. These individuals are not just people who are poverty stricken but middle class people who had bad luck or emergencies that happened financially and are just between paychecks. Then there are the elderly who do not get enough social security and are in need. I was amazed at how even our veterans need help and are often times in great need. This is an amazing program and the staff at this facility are even more amazing!"

Amanda S

"Today, working up front in the store I was impacted by the interaction with a young mother. Before she began the food selecting process, I asked her if she had children so I could add a few extra goodies if she did. She was extremely thankful for all of the things she was given and almost started crying. Once I had finished giving her an explanation of the food picking process she asked if there was anyway we had hygiene supplies. I was able to find several small items including a donated diaper genie and some very good skin care products. She again about started crying.

"This impacted me in a manner that opened my eyes. We do not know everyone's circumstances. I may not know how or why someone needs the things they do. At the end of the day it is not really my business. However, it is my business to care. My understanding of empathy grew from this young

woman. She was my age and just needed help. She was trying to support her family. I learn more and more every day in clinical that it doesn't matter what that person may have done "wrong" to get to the point they are in. They are still human and they still need help and support. How she specifically reached into my heart was the way she was so grateful for everything she received. I may or may not agree with what put her in those circumstances but she was human and she was extremely grateful. At the end of the day, we are all just humans and we all need a little help sometimes, without judgment."

Jeremy B

"Over all the biggest impact one of the people had on me there was a gentlemen that came in on October 12th. He was not very old, just about in his mid-40's, and seemed very uncomfortable with being there to get help. What really caught my attention was how he seemed in pain and embarrassed about the whole thing, and almost on the verge of a break down. I got to talking with the gentleman and turns out that he was in a car accident not too long ago that messed up his spine and has since made it impossible for him to work. The compressed disc is not operable and will continue to get worse over time.

I felt really sorry for him since you could tell that he really wanted to work and make his own way, but that it had been taken from him. I also got the impression that his condition has led to depression, lack of self-worth and just a poor outlook in general. I told him about how something similar had happened to my mother on 2 separate occasions, and it got him to open up to talk about his condition, and allowed him a little bit of an outlet for his frustrations I think. I really feel like cases like his just a bit of compassion and understanding can make their day, and keep them from sliding further into depression and hopefully reduce the risk for suicide."

Alexia Z

"I really enjoyed working at Feeding South Dakota as here I had the privilege to work with parts of the community that I would not normally work with on a daily basis. I know that I see them on the health care facilities but when they come in most of the time they do not talk about the struggle that they are dealing with on a daily basis. Here I go to see first hand that there are families who do not have adequate food supply and they may only get enough food to last a week or two and then they cannot come back for 60 days. If they are elderly they can come back in 30 days to get what they need, this is very sad as many of the families do have jobs but after they pay all of their bills there is not enough for food to feed their family. It was an eye opener to see just how many families that come through on a daily basis."

Tina O

"Since the original clinical site was not available, the clinical site was changed to the Feeding South Dakota site. The question of why nursing students were having to go to a food bank came up, as well as how does mental health come into play. In my clinical rotation, I saw many individuals who seemed to have some sort of mental illness, and came to this conclusion by the way some of them spoke; talking to themselves or repeating information over and over, some were not very clean and had very bad personal hygiene. I think I saw a lot of depression in some of the people that came into the pantry. Not being able to buy groceries on a regular basis does cause depression"

Robert M

"Many of the people that come through the doors of Feeding South Dakota have a sense of entitlement, but a young couple came in that seemed to be in desperate need and were extremely thankful for the food that we were allowing them to take. When I told the girlfriend/wife that she could take as much

bread as she could use, she looked as if she were about to cry. When this happened and I saw the couples true need and appreciation, and I became a ‘food pusher’. I had the couple take numerous different breads and told them that they could have even more bread to store in their freezer. The gratefulness that they showed encouraged me to go in the back room and see what else I could give them for fresh fruits and vegetables. I loaded both of their carts with anything I could find and they said that they would use it all.”

Ashley P

“While completing our clinical at Feeding South Dakota, I received a real eye opener. Growing up I was very sheltered and my parents made sure that as children we never knew or had to experience hardships. We did not get everything we wanted, but we always had what we needed. While working at Feed South Dakota I got to see first-hand people that are in need. Not just people that are looking for a hand out, but people that maybe can’t work but try their best to live life day to day. I met individuals that didn’t have any day to day necessities that as a person I take for granted on a daily basis. There were a few times my heart just sank when there were elderly individuals, mentally unhealthy individuals, and young children that came through the pantry looking for anything that they could use to survive on a day to day basis. Being a Feed South Dakota made me sad, thankful, and even happy at times knowing that the service they were providing was helping families in need.”

Donnelle F

“Through this experience, I learned that there are resources available to our patients that we as nurses can refer them to. As nurses, we need to listen and ask questions with our patients and their families so we can find needs they may have. I learned that nutrition is something that needs to be addressed with patients. I now know it is a huge issue in my area. These patients and their families may also need referrals for housing, other medical needs, childcare, and transportation, as well. This is an experience that will stick with me through my entire life.”

Annie S

“Overall I would say that the experience at Feeding South Dakota was humbling and eye opening. In all honesty I have tried to sort of bury my head in the sand about issues that are emotionally hard to accept or deal with. Being at Feeding South Dakota made that just about impossible. I would leave there and just cry all the way home (it could be my postnatal hormones also) thinking about how many kids and families were going to go hungry tonight but it did make me see how truly blessed I am. I also realized that even though I bury my head in the sand about people going hungry or other issues it doesn’t mean its not there so I am extremely grateful for the community services like Feeding South Dakota and the work that everyone there does. I had the opportunity to be a part of a really great program and see a variety of different people going through various stages or hardships and how they were responding to them.”

Jackie G

“As a nurse, it’s important to always expand our knowledge and always learn new things. For every one thing I think I know, there are ten more that I’ve yet to learn, and I really came to discover that during this clinical rotation. I had no idea about the food pantry, or the community it serves. I had no idea how much work and prep goes into making that food pantry viable and helpful to those who need it. I also didn’t realize how much food in food banks gets tossed out and can’t be used – so, so much food was considered expired or otherwise damaged. The amount of food we threw away made my stomach hurt, and the sad thing is that most people who donate think that they are helping and don’t realize how strict the guidelines are. It was also eye-opening to see how much work went into the backpack

program, which ensures that kids of low income receive food during the weekends. These people at Feeding South Dakota are doing amazing work, with hardly any help, and making ends meet for the community.”