

Caroline Smith

Service Learning Reflection Two

March 22, 2023

On Sunday February 25th, I volunteered with my mom at our churches soup kitchen in Charlottesville, VA. Growing up, me and my family were super involved with our church and were always volunteering. My church was my second home growing up, and where I attended preschool and was baptized at. My church is in downtown Charlottesville, where most of our homeless community is located. Since homelessness is so prevalent in downtown Charlottesville, most churches offer food drives, places to sleep, and soup kitchens. In high school, I ran the soup kitchens on Sunday nights with other teenagers my age involved with the church. Now, that I am not home in Charlottesville full time, I try to still volunteer when possible if I am home for a weekend.

My last service reflection, I volunteered at FACES here in Farmville, and loaded cars with food. In Charlottesville at my church, when I previously would do this same thing, instead of loading cars full of groceries for families, we would load childrens backpacks and send them to schools to send home with families.

At the soup kitchen, I observed that there weren't any children. Everyone that came to the soup kitchen was an adult, some young adults and mostly older adults. I also noticed that there were a lot more homeless men than women which I thought was interesting. In the book *Broke In America*, it mentions what it is like to be broke and have to have assistance. The people that were at the soup kitchen were there needing assistance by receiving a meal. My church also hands out bags with snacks and mini hygiene supplies to grab as they are leaving which I really liked to see. The book also mentions how hard it is for people to have access to hygiene products and feel clean and normal so I'm glad that my church was able to hand out

products. The person that was in charge of the soup kitchen, got on stage to make the announcement that the bags of supplies can be grabbed on the way out and everyone looked super happy to hear that. I definitely enjoy being involved in my community through my church and was happy to help at the soup kitchen.