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Agency Paper
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Professor Carbol
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What is the organization/agency mission, function and type of setting?

According to their website “Feed My People's mission is to show God's love and compassion to all His people, but particularly to His people in need.” Feed My People is a food bank for individuals who are on the poverty line. They also have a thrift store that provides affordable clothing and other items that people with low income might need.

What type of agency (e.g. staffing etc) Clients served and how those services are delivered?

Feed My People has two locations. I work at the one at South County. Feed My People is run by an executive director, Karen Lanter. The South County location has one site manager, Ted West and Stephanie Berberich is the Volunteer Coordinator. In addition to staff, many people come to volunteer. Due to COVID-19, the food pantry is running a bit differently. Clients are to call and make an appointment for when they want to pick up their food. Clients will then go up to the door and must wear a mask. They are required to show a piece of mail with their current address on it, if everything looks acceptable, we then have them drive or walk towards the back of the building to pick up their food. The volunteers will bag the appropriate amount of food regarding the number of people that live in the household and distribute their food to their car. People are still able to come inside the thrift store, but we do encourage shoppers to socially distance and wear masks.

What agencies provide similar services or make up a connective web of services?

There are several other food banks in the St. Louis area. These include religious organizations or faith-based groups that provide food and other household items for people who are in need.

How is the agency funded or financed? Does it receive federal, state or local funds? Are grants provided through philanthropic organizations? Is there a combination of funding?

Feed My People is a non-profit organization. They also receive funds from individual donors, religious organizations and other businesses. They also pursue government grants, but they are not counted on as a reliable source of support for the organization.

Discuss issues related to the agency's success in implanting its mission. Do the agency's services impact a vulnerable group (e.g. children, the elderly, minorities and women?)

Feed My People's food pantry makes a great impact on individuals and families of a variety of cultures of many age groups who are on the poverty line. They have become a landmark in the Lemay community. People know to turn to them when they do not have any other options. The thrift store serves the public who want low-cost quality clothing and other household items.

What specific practitioner skills do you hope to gain, utilize as a practicum student?

I hope to gain more experience being able to interact with clients effectively one on one without assistance from staff or volunteers. Another skill I hope to gain to become more independent and taking more of the initiative when I am facing a difficult task.

Why did you choose this site?

I chose Feed My People because I enjoy making a difference in people's lives who need financial assistance and help them get in a place in life that will help them find full-time employment. I was also interested in Feed My People due to the interaction that my church communities have with the organization and that I had previous experience volunteering with them due to my grandmother. I believe that Feed My People will also give me an opportunity to gain experience

in effectively interacting with clients who are really struggling to get by in life. This is my second semester doing my practicum at Feed My People and I have some knowledge and experience of what to expect when working there. It will also give me an opportunity to learn more advanced skills on how they run their agency.