

Putting the Give in Thanksgiving

This year I celebrated my first Thanksgiving.

Let face it, in previous years on turkey day me preaching vegetarianism and telling family members how “well” I am doing in school is not a true Thanksgiving.

Over Thanksgiving break I decided to fully immerse myself into Thanksgiving mode.

My personal “how to” become a Thanksgiving Enthusiast 101:

Warning: you will undoubtedly get a highly warm, fuzzy feeling inside

1. Start by mingling with family and friends.
2. Show your creative side by cooking or baking a fabulous dish (*Pinterest does miracles for fun, easy recipes*)
3. Proceed by stuffing your face with delicious homemade food.
4. Begin to consume mass amounts of caffeine (*thank you 7-11 for the buy one Redbull, get a free coffee deal*) and get your Black Friday on!
5. VOLUNTEER at Philabundance, or any organization you feel passionate about, after all it tis the season for giving!

Through Temple University’s PRSSA, I was able to represent Temple University while dedicating some of my time at the non-profit organization, [Philabundance](#).

After the rush of Thanksgiving Thursday and Black Friday dies down, Saturday morning’s sun rises. Some people will reflect on their picture-perfect dinners, flip through their cameras to laugh at the photos taken from the days before, and maybe tell a neighbor about an epic deal they got at 4 in the morning. For some people that idea is far from reality. Philabundance works hard to get food on the table for people in need by collecting, packaging and distributing food.

My experience at the Philabundance Hunger Relief Center went something like this: I arrived for the afternoon shift along with two other PRSSA members. We got right to work by packaging 30lb. boxes of pasta products, followed by breakfast cereals, and beverages. The items ranged in types and brands; we ensured each box had a variety of foods. As I filled the containers, a group of older women were forming cardboard boxes, while a father and his son sealed and piled the packages. Before I knew it, the room was full of 30 strangers working together to support Philabundance and most importantly people in the Delaware Valley. The afternoon ended with a tear-jerking thank you from the volunteer coordinator and the best news of all: we had packaged 4,295 pounds of food!

Sure, volunteering has its perks.

By volunteering I enhanced my resume, connected with other PRSSA members and brought real meaning to this year’s Thanksgiving. I will be able to utilize and share this

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experience when writing scholarship essays, during interviews and to make others aware of Philabundance.

This experience reminded me that I do not have to wait until the holiday season to give back. I am excited to bring volunteering into my Thanksgiving tradition for years to come!