# STUDENT VOICES

## Impact of Service Learning Experience
## UNIV 1301 Learning Framework
## Ms. Erika Perez

**NAME: RUBY RAMIREZ**
**CLASSIFICATION: FRESHMAN**
**MAJOR: BIOLOGY**
**CAREER ASPIRATION: VETERINARIAN**
**PARTNERING ORGANIZATION: PALM VALLEY ANIMAL SOCIETY**

"While working at both shelters and at the thrift store, I learned that different roles in our communities are equally important to the contribution of our community. People of different backgrounds with different goals and interests all come together to work towards the common goal of creating a better future for all in the community. I was able to use my communication skills to speak to customers at the thrift store that spoke both English and Spanish. Since veterinarians don't just work with animals but rather the animal owners, they need to be able to communicate with people of different ages and cultures to be respectful and understanding. My service to the community with this project has further inspired me and strengthened my already existing passion to help animals and the community."

**NAME: AARYA TRIPATHI**
**CLASSIFICATION: FRESHMAN**
**MAJOR: BIOLOGY**
**CAREER ASPIRATION: GYNECOLOGIST**
**PARTNERING ORGANIZATION: ACCESS ESPERANZA CLINIC**

"Volunteering at Access Esperanza Clinic was a valuable opportunity that taught me a great deal about civic responsibility. Through my participation, I learned the importance of contributing to the community and using my skills to make a positive impact. As I recently moved to the RGV from Memphis, I had been feeling out of place, but through this project, I was able to begin to bond with the community. Additionally, it taught me the importance of understanding the community's diverse needs and the significance of providing resources that can help people make informed decisions about their sexual health."

**NAME: LYNSEY TORRES**
**CLASSIFICATION: SOPHOMORE**
**MAJOR: BIOLOGY**
**CAREER ASPIRATION: AGROECOLOGY**
**PARTNERING ORGANIZATION: FOOD BANK OF THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY**

"While serving at the Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley, I helped restock the shelves with food products and assemble boxes of food for the Senior Box Program. Since the Valley is a predominantly low-income area, there are a lot of families who do not eat as often as they should because they cannot afford it, the food bank helps fight food insecurity in the Rio Grande Valley through these services. In the future I would like to work in agroecology and the production/sustainability of crops, and I think it is very important that we find ways to grow our food in the most sustainable ways possible so that we can maximize the yield and minimize any adverse environmental effects (such as overuse of chemical fertilizers which may pollute the environment) and find solutions that promote food security in our local community."

**NAME: VICTOR MARTINEZ**
**CLASSIFICATION: FRESHMAN**
**MAJOR: CHEMISTRY**
**CAREER ASPIRATIONS: NEUROSURGEON**
**PARTNERING ORGANIZATION: PALM VALLEY ANIMAL SOCIETY**

"Volunteering at the Palm Valley Animal Society has taught me about the importance of civic responsibility, taking an active role in my community, and contributing to a more compassionate and just society. As a volunteer, I have gained firsthand experience with the vital role that animal shelters play in providing care and support for homeless and abandoned animals. Through my volunteer work, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges that animal shelters face, such as overcrowding, underfunding, and limited resources. These issues not only affect the well-being of animals but also pose a risk to public health and safety."

**NAME: LITZY TORRES-CHAVEZ**
**CLASSIFICATION: SOPHOMORE**
**MAJOR: BIOLOGY**
**CAREER ASPIRATIONS: GENERAL SURGEON**
**PARTNERING ORGANIZATION: UT-HEALTH HOUSTON SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

"I served at the UT-Health Houston School of Public Health "RGV Challenge" event. The goal of the event was to bring health awareness to the community, by helping participants reduce their Body Mass Index by 5%, which makes them 50% less likely to become diabetic or experience health difficulties. I want to pursue a carrier in the medical field, and this event helped me develop some skills that will be crucial for my future such as learning how to approach an individual without invading their personal space, performing blood pressure checks, weight ins, and taking hip and waist measurements. Volunteering made me realize the importance of bringing awareness to these problems, especially since we live in a state with the most obesity cases."