

YLDP Visit to Houston Food Bank, A Learning Experience

On Saturday, December 15, 2012, YLDP students arrived at the Houston Food Bank expecting a simple tour of the enormous building. However, they left with much more than that. After visiting the key parts of the Houston Food Bank, the students were enlightened by the advice of the President of the Houston Food Bank himself, Mr. Brian Greene.

When Mr. Greene first started running the Food Bank, his vision was analogous to other local food pantries – to end hunger. Over time though, Mr. Greene realized that hunger was not the only issue present. Rather than providing calories, Mr. Greene called for a transition to providing nutrition. It was then that Mr. Greene realized that a change in vision is essential to make an impact, but the vision must be compelling and desirable if it is to be prosperous. In his opinion, one should not think about how a task is going to be done, but instead what accomplishing that task can lead to. He also added that in order to make a difference, “you must be in a position to make a difference” and “overcome” any “gaps” in your path. “You can’t just take what people assume as your role,” he stated.

Mr. Greene also emphasized the importance of ethics to leadership. He warned the students that as leaders, it is imperative that they never portray themselves as people who are working only for their own prosperity, and also that they never take credit of their success. Mr. Greene urges the students to “trust that if [they] do the right thing, [they] will be fine.”

Mr. Brian Greene instilled in the students a sense of self-confidence and urged a flexible mentality that is sure to aid the students as they aspire to be leaders in the future. This field trip was not just a view of the inner workings of the Houston Food Bank, but also an eye-opening lesson for the auspicious YLDP students that they will remember forever.

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