On Monday September 23rd, 2019, the Texas A&M Department of Economics staff went to Brazos Church Pantry to unload and sort donated food for hundreds of needy families in the Bryan area.

Each quarter, an ECON staff member picks a different charity in which to donate time or resources. This quarter, Paula Verdegaal (Academic Advisor II) selected The Brazos Church Pantry for the charitable event. Paula chose this charity because she is a member of one of the participating churches. Paula has a personal interest in organizations that are able to directly impact the Brazos Valley residents. Having first-hand experience seeing the great work they have done in the Brazos Valley, selecting this organization was an easy decision to make.

The Brazos Church Pantry is a local non-profit organization that provides food to those who need it in the Brazos Valley. The pantry, which operates with no paid staff and with the help of over 30 churches, survives on contributions and volunteers. Last year, the pantry provided food to more than 38,000 Brazos County residents. People suffering economic hardships or who have financial or medical emergencies tying up their funds are eligible to request food once a month.

Six Economics staff worked a couple of hours unloading a truck load of food items, sorting and stacking the items and making it possible for the Church Pantry to distribute the food to those to need it.

ECON Staff Paula Verdegaal (Maroon shirt, middle) and David Cabrera (Blue Shirt, right) work with other volunteers to unload a pallet of rice at the Brazos Church Pantry
Paula Verdegaal (Maroon shirt, left) and Tim Gronberg (Maroon Shirt, middle) work with other volunteers to unload a pallet of rice.

David Cabrera (Blue shirt, middle) Paula Verdegaal (Maroon shirt, middle) and Rochelle Read (Maroon shirt, right) help unload boxed of donated food at the Brazos Church Pantry.
Paula Verdegaa (L) and Rochelle Read (R), stack pallets of canned goods at the Brazos Church Pantry