

The Virtue of Leadership

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On November 18th, at the Houston Food Bank, YLDP of Houston had the immense honor of hearing the judicious words of Brian Greene, President/CEO of the Houston Food Bank. Brian Greene has an MA in Economics from The University of Tennessee, and had previously been the director of other Food Banks. Since he has taken up this job, Brian Greene has provoked exponential success by tripling distribution and has made the Houston Food Bank the largest in the country.

Brian Greene's presentation explored various topics: workings of the Food Bank, non-profit management, and effective leadership. With his experience as an established leader, Mr. Greene described how leaders provide the "push" necessary to establish a vision among a group of people, and consider opinions of others- establishing an opportunistic environment. Mr. Greene also depicted that leadership can be achieved through many different styles, emphasizing that it is essential for a leader to possess an array of technical and relationship skills, ethics, and morals. He also revealed how leaders permit others to accomplish more.

An impactful aspect of Mr. Greene's presentation that stuck out to my group, was his opinion on the diversity of leadership. For example, Mr. Greene presented that the common misconception that all leaders are extroverts was disproven when CEO's of large companies were determined to be introverts. As a result, we learned that leaders can't possess everything, but need the capacity to overcome anything. We agreed that ethics and morals are essential to leadership, because a successful person needs to feel a sense of community, and discipline themselves to make the "right" decision. We also recognized that leadership can present itself in any aspect of life.

In Mr. Greene's engaging presentation, he showed that as a leader, one needs to be morally courageous with little acts. He emphasized that you need to get to know yourself to become an effective person and build yourself to make a difference. Mr. Greene captivated his audience of young leaders, teaching them that leadership isn't something that is easily obtained, but is a virtue essential to the success of people in society.