

By Ariel,
Felicia, Kayla,
and Julia

DAILY TABLE



MEAT & DAIRY

DAILY DEALS

SOUPS & SALADS

nonprofit
community
**FOOD
MARKET**

BANANAS

**39¢
lb**

APPLES
**89¢
lb**

EVERYDAY!

MEALS
TO GO
**\$1.99
& UP**

CONVENIENT

FRESH PRODUCE

GRAB-N-GO MEALS

SNAP EBT WELCOME



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Our Volunteering

- ❖ Kayla - 3 times
- ❖ Julia - 1 time
- ❖ Felicia - 2 times
- ❖ Ariel - 2 times



What is Daily Table?

- A not-for-profit grocery store created to serve low-income customers but open to all
- First location opened 2015 in Dorchester, followed by Roxbury
- Their mission: “help communities make great choices around food by making it easy for them to choose tasty, healthy, convenient and truly affordable meals and groceries”, while honoring and preserving customers’ dignity
- Maintain low prices through collaboration with food growers, supplies, supermarkets
 - Donations of excess food, or equitable purchase options



Observations

- ❖ Welcoming atmosphere
 - Strong customer-worker relationship
- ❖ Understaffed on a Monday, overstaffed on a Friday
- ❖ Inventory is limited, but generally sufficient
 - Customers asking for items not sold there
 - Inventory can be variable depending on donations/availability
- ❖ Some produce is not fresh
- ❖ Feedback only when a customer takes initiative
- ❖ Storefront is sometimes left uncleaned



The Dorchester location, which is a little larger than the Roxbury location at which we volunteered. There are also four registers as opposed to two.

Ariel: Takeaways

- ❖ Customer experience feels similar to a typical small grocery store
- ❖ Emphasis on dignified experience for all customers
- ❖ Welcoming atmosphere
- ❖ Without advertisement, some may not know of lower prices and programs like cooking classes, Double Up Food bucks

Ariel: Recommendations

Policy for encouraging socially-minded food ventures like the DT

- Implementing greater tax incentives for donors
 - Incentivize food distributors to donate to community-focused food ventures, not just food banks
 - Emphasize healthy food
- Increased government funding
 - Loans, grants, voucher programs
 - Example: MA Food Trust Program (MFTP)

Felicia: Takeaways

- ❖ Like normal grocery store → but food often close to expiration date
- ❖ Similar layout/vibe as Trader Joes, founder is the same
- ❖ Staff overworked, not all tasks are finished → not enough volunteers

Felicia: Recommendations

- ❖ Socializing and connecting with the community are the main reasons why people volunteer
 - Organize activities that facilitate volunteer interaction with other volunteers and community members
 - Create a welcoming environment for new volunteers

Kayla: Takeaways

- ❖ Limited inventory, but good variety
- ❖ Prices good for a city, vs \$\$\$ if it were in a suburb
- ❖ Less-fresh produce
- ❖ Seeing how overworked Cliff seemed

Kayla: Recommendations

- ❖ System for streamlined, customer-decided changes
 - Community advisory group that meets regularly
 - Takes the onus off of customers
- ❖ Partnerships with local farms
- ❖ More volunteers

Julia: Takeaways

- ❖ Comparing DT's "mood" to my other experience at Boston Temple
- ❖ Daily Table was not what I would have considered a food justice org before taking this course
- ❖ A unique way to help alleviate the problem of "wasted food"

Julia: Recommendations

- ❖ Capitalizing on sense of community with events (general)
- ❖ Events related to SNAP outreach (SNAP 101, “cooking on SNAP” to relate to their meal plans)
- ❖ Could partner with other local orgs for other events
- ❖ Offer links on website for outside cooking class videos/demos
 - Bring back onsite cooking classes in future (volunteer help!)

Thank you!

