Table Grace Café

Emily Kawano, Brittany Lawrence,
Lindsay Zahradka
Who is Table Grace?

- Table Grace Ministries (2008)
  - Table Grace Cafe (2011)
  - Volunteering
  - 10-Day Job Training
  - Music & Fellowship
  - Catering
  - Food Truck (NEW!)
  - “Nourishing Hungry Bodies and Souls”

- We, the people of Omaha
  - “Pay it forward”
  - Pay-what-you-can business system
Owners

Matt Weber
CEO, Director, Chef
Teaches healthy cooking workshops, leads catering service

Simone Weber
COO, Musical Missionary
Brings people together through music
What does Table Grace do?

- Helping to feed the hungry and food insecure
- Giving the jobless a sense of purpose and self-worth
- Establishing a family
- “Teaching men to fish”, rather than “giving them a fish”.
- Statistics
  - 10 staff members & 8 volunteers per day
  - 50 meals per day
  - Suggested price of $7 per meal
  - About $2 - $3 extra donations per person
  - Most of their ingredients are donated
Video

My experience with Table Grace (Brittany)

- Warm and welcoming from the moment I stepped foot in the cafe
- Showed me that there are people in Omaha who want to make a difference, rather than being bystanders to food insecurity
- Allowed me to interact with people I otherwise would not have thought to start a conversation with
- Gave me hope for a future of increased food security in Omaha
Pay-what-you-can Business Model

- Based off of SAME Cafe in Colorado
  - So All May Eat
  - One of the first PWYC models
  - Matt went and visited to learn more about system model
- Volunteer if unable to pay
Obtaining Food

- 90% of food is donated
  - Saving Grace Food Rescue
- Food truck
- Healthy food
- Menu April 3rd
  - Mixed Lettuce
  - Roasted Garlic Potato Salad
  - Vegan Kale Vegetable
  - Salmon Chowder
  - Fresh Mozzarella black truffel fresh tomato pizza
  - Salami
  - Gluten Free
My experience with Table Grace (Emily)

- Freshman year, Sophomore year, Groupon
- Contribution through involvement
  - Expanding the knowledge of the organization
- Love talking about this organization
  - Serves all socioeconomic statuses
- What Matt loves about Table Grace Cafe
  - Seeing people transition
  - People have accountability
  - Seeing people making differences in their own life- self motivation
  - Doesn’t want to contribute to toxic charity
Problems Observed

- Money → need more people willing to “pay it forward” and donate
  - Catering, fundraising, grants and customer donations, food donations
- Access/Awareness → how to reach more people and become more well-known
  - Facebook page, news stories, having customers spread the word, assemblies/programs with schools (?)
- Spreading the love → how to grow as an organization
  - Cafe, food truck, programs with schools (?)
What can we do as a community?

- Promote Table Grace Café and all they do
- Encourage friends and family to go contribute and spread the word
- Include this organization on social media to outreach
- Create opportunities for the food truck to reach other parts of Omaha
- Create a conversation for food injustice
My experience with Table Grace (Lindsay)

- Got to see the impact Table Grace has on its customers
- Got to meet new people from different backgrounds
- Had a taste of high quality food and felt like I was really giving something back in donating money