

Normandale Campus Cupboard

End of Year Report: Aug. 2020-May 2021



Photo credit: Devon Cox

Why is the Cupboard Needed?

- According to the fall 2020 #RealCollege Normandale student survey by the Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice at Temple University: **29% of Normandale students who completed the survey were food insecure in the prior 30 days** (pg. 2).
- COVID exacerbated economic challenges for students, leaving food budgets tighter. For example, 32% of Normandale students lost their part-time jobs and 33% lost their full-time jobs due to the pandemic (Fall 2020 #RealCollege Survey, pg. 6).
- The Campus Cupboard advances the work of Normandale's Big 3 and Minnesota State College and University's [Equity 2030](#) focus on student engagement and support through basic needs.

Key Accomplishments

- Expanded our services to include fresh meals and groceries.
- In partnership with Grants and The Foundation raised \$116,000 in grants and received an additional \$50,000 in-kind donations. Grants allowed us to meet student needs tied to COVID, including distributing \$11,500 worth of Cub Gift cards and 850 reusable facemasks.
- Established a new partnership with nonprofit Hope for the Community, who has donated over \$37,000 worth of equipment and food to date.
- Offered students fresh meals through partnerships with Tiffin Man Global Kitchen and Second Harvest Heartland's MN Central Kitchen.
- Offered home delivery to students. Volunteers completed nearly 300 deliveries to over 60 unique students.
- Moved to a new location in Admissions to better serve students and developed plans for a permanent location in Activities 1st floor.

- Partnered with the University of MN Twin Cities Extension to offer 6-week long Cooking Matters class for students for the first time. 15 students received free groceries and nutrition education in the weekly virtual class.
- Participated in The Foundation’s Ending Student Hunger Workgroup.
- Collaborated with Financial Aid, the Student Resource Center, and the Advising, Counseling, & Career Center to connect students with SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits. Over 3,000 students received an email if they were most likely to be newly eligible for SNAP.

Student Usage Data

Category	Total
Number of student visits	2,600
Unique students served	425
Total individuals served (includes students and members of their household)	700 (total just for 3/1-5/14/21)
Pounds of food distributed	Over 30,000 (compared to 19,000 lbs. 2019-2020, or a 37% increase)
Meals distributed	Nearly 6,000
Deliveries	Nearly 300



How the Campus Cupboard Advances Normandale’s “Big 3”

The Big 3:

1. *Eliminate the racial equity gap at Normandale by 2025*
2. *Increase our completion rate to 50% or higher for degree seeking students by 2030*
3. *Support & sustain a pervasive institutional culture that is culturally competent & service oriented*

Eliminate the Racial Equity Gap

The Fall 2020 #RealCollege survey (pg. 13) indicated that there are disparities in Normandale student basic needs insecurities, including by race. For instance, below are the estimated rates of basic needs insecurities by race:

- Asian or Asian American: 51%
- African American or Black: 63%
- Hispanic or Latinx: 66%
- Native American: 68%
- White or Caucasian: 48%
- Other Race: 70%

These disparities show the need for providing accessible and inclusive basic needs insecurity supports as a tool to reduce the racial equity gap because helping students meet their basic needs undergirds academic success.

Increase Completion Rates

The Campus Cupboard helps students concentrate on their academics and stay enrolled at Normandale.

Concentrate in Class

95% (40/42) of students reported that the food that they received at the Campus Cupboard helps them concentrate better in class (Source: [Campus Cupboard student survey, April 2021](#)). Sample student comments include:

- “It has allowed me to take time off working full time to focus on my classes.”
- “It has made it so I don't have to worry about money as much since I have had to drop the amount of hours I work to be able to do more school work.”
- “It acted as a buffer against worry that I may not be able to meet all of my physiological needs. The safety it provided helped me concentrate on class.”

Stay Enrolled at Normandale

The Campus Cupboard supports the college’s Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) work and completion rate goals. **82% (34/42) of students stated that the food they receive from the Campus Cupboard has helped them stay enrolled at Normandale.**

- “All this help has made me decide to stay at Normandale for another two semesters as I feel the support I receive from here keeps me on track to achieve my educational goals.”

Culturally Competent and Service Oriented

This past year we use grant funds and our partnerships with local food banks (The Food Group and Second Harvest Heartland) to provide culturally-inclusive food items. In our meals partnership with Tiffin Man Global Kitchen and MN Central Kitchen we offered meals from a variety of cultural backgrounds and inclusive of a variety of dietary needs.



Impact of the Campus Cupboard

“[The Campus Cupboard] kept me fed and helped kept me protected during COVID.”

Reduction in Food Insecurity

In our spring 2021 Campus Cupboard student survey **91% (38/42) of students agreed that the Campus Cupboard improved their access to a reliable source of nutritious foods.**

- “It has helped to put food on my table on days I had nothing to eat.”
- “I save a lot of money with Campus Cupboard. My grocery budget can go into somewhere else.”
- “We have been able to reduce our grocery bills, and their food is higher quality than the store.”
- “I haven't been working many hours due to covid, so my money has been really tight for my family, with campus cupboard i have been able to get essentials to help stretch/ create meals.”

According to the fall 2020 #RealCollege Normandale survey, 29% of Normandale students were food insecure in the prior 30 days, compared to 36% of students in fall 2018. While many factors impact food insecurity, we presume that an expansion of the Campus Cupboard services in summer and fall 2020 reduced rates of student food insecurity. In fall 2020 the national food insecurity average at 2-year schools was 39%. So, in fall 2020 Normandale students reported 10% less food insecurity than students at peer institutions.

Health Benefits

Health benefits include mitigating risk of COVID, access to nutritional food, and reducing mental stress tied to meeting their basic needs.

- “I have easy access to healthy foods.”
- “Stay happy and healthy during stressful times.”
- “Helped me stay healthy, receive resources to help with COVID cases like offering sanitizers/masks/soaps etc.”
- “Helped me receive essential and very healthy nutritious ingredients like beans/grains/milk/meats/fruit/ dried and frozen nuts and berries and more.”
- “It motivates me to make my own food and using the food I only have in hand than going to a fast food.”

Supporting Households

The Campus Cupboard supports not just students but also their family and households. March 1st-May 14th, 2021 we served over 700 individuals, which means students plus the members of their households.

- “It has helped reduced cost at the grocery store for myself and son. I can pick up things at the campus cupboard and then plan a meal around those items.”
- “Feed a larger amount of food to my family and is convenient so I don't have to go to the store more often. This has helped the budget and the two kids at home who I help support.”

Benefits of Specific Services

Our services save students time so they can focus on studying, reduced their stress about getting food, and reduced their risk of COVID. Top 3 ways these specific services helped students (students could select all that apply):

Refrigerated and/or frozen groceries:

1. Saved me time grocery stopping so I had more time to study (32%)
2. Reduced my stress about getting groceries (30%)
3. Gave me groceries when I otherwise could not have afforded groceries (18%)

Fresh grab-and-go meals:

1. Saved me time cooking so I had more time to study (34%)
2. Reduced my stress about preparing meals (26%)
3. Helped me eat healthier (21%)

Personal hygiene items:

1. Saved me money on buying these items (44%)
2. Gave me access to more hygiene items (29%)
3. Reduced my risk of COVID (27%)

Home delivery:

1. Saved me time, thereby giving me more time to study (32%)
2. Reduced my risk of COVID (29%)
3. Allowed me access to the Campus Cupboard items when I otherwise would not have access (26%)

Partnership with Hope for the Community

In Fall 2020 we wrapped up a 9-year partnership with nonprofit Good in the 'Hood. For spring 2021 we initiated a new partnership with nonprofit Hope for the Community, who has donated over \$31,000 in-kind for equipment (such as our freezers, refrigerators, shelves, front desk, and reusable bags), sponsoring our licensure with the City of Bloomington, and over \$6,000 to-date for perishable and non-perishable food. Hope for the Community has pledged their ongoing support at minimum through the 2021-2022 academic year. Hope for the Community's Executive Director is Normandale alum Pastor Al Goracke. We appreciate The Foundation's work to facilitate this new partnership.

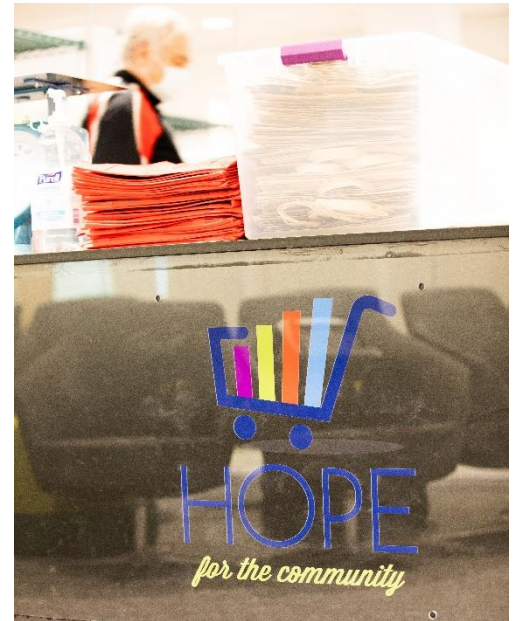


Photo credit: Devon Cox

Deliveries

- Nearly 300 deliveries made to 63 unique students.
- About 25 Volunteers (including staff, faculty, administration, students, and community members).

Financial Donations

In partnership with Grants and The Foundation **raised \$116,000 in grants and received an additional \$50,000 in-kind donations.**

- Meal Access Grant (MN Dept of Edu): \$73,833
- MN COVID Food Fund (Hunger Solutions MN): \$20,000
- Otto Bremer Trust, \$10,000
- MN Office of Higher Education Food Pantry Supplemental Grant, \$5,000
- CenterPoint Energy Grant, \$2,500
- Hope for the Community (in-kind): \$37,000
- MN Central Kitchen meals (in-kind): \$12,800

Opportunities for Improvement

According to our student survey these are the top three ways we could improve the Campus Cupboard:

1. More variety of food (23%)
2. Gift cards for off campus groceries (21%)
3. Healthier food options (17%)