

Normandale Campus Cupboard

End of Year Report: Aug. 2019-May 2020

Campus Cupboard Mission

The Campus Cupboard, in cooperation with our community partner Good in the 'Hood, strives to meet the school day nutritional needs of Normandale Community College students experiencing financial challenges and food insecurity.

Why is the Cupboard Needed?

- COVID-19 increased student food insecurity (see COVID-19 Impact and Response section for details).
- According to the 2018 #RealCollege Survey by the Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice at Temple University: 36% of Normandale students who completed the survey were food insecure in the prior 30 days. Food insecurity is the “limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe food, or the ability to acquire such food in a socially acceptable manner” (pg. 2).
- The Campus Cupboard enacts the work of MN State’s [Equity 2030](#) focus on student engagement and support through basic needs.

Impact of the Campus Cupboard

According to students who use the Cupboard, **the Cupboard helps them focus on academics, stay enrolled at Normandale, meet their basic needs, and be healthier.**

Concentrate in Class

100% (55/55) reported that the food that they received at the Campus Cupboard helps them concentrate better in class. (Source: Campus Cupboard Evaluation survey, May 2020)

- “It has helped me gain all the resources I need to succeed in not only my studies but everything. I get food, feminine products, study materials, and more from this amazing resource. When I am too hungry to focus in class I can always count on the Campus Cupboard.”
- “Sometimes I do not have enough money to get something to eat. The Campus Cupboard keeps me focused in class.”
- “There have been many times where I couldn’t afford food so I couldn’t bring lunch or I had super long days at school and the Cupboard helped me stay fed and gave me concentration that I needed to succeed.”

Stay Enrolled at Normandale

The Campus Cupboard supports the college’s Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) work. 91% (50/55) stated that the food they receive from the Campus Cupboard has helped them stay enrolled at Normandale.

- “It helps me not go hungry and concentrate on my classes for the years I have been at Normandale.”

- “When I don't have a lot of money, the Cupboard ensures I can eat. Before COVID-19 I would have 10+ hour days on campus without the means to leave for food.”

Cover Basic Needs

The Campus Cupboard helps students meet their basic needs necessary for success in school.

- “There were many times I was unable to pay rent, unable to repair my car, and unable to pay for groceries. During these times eating a can of tuna or fruit mix from the Cupboard was a lifesaver.”
- When I’m really hungry and have no energy and feel sick, I’ve gotten granola bars from the CC that sustained me.”
- “I have been able to grab food options when I am furloughed without pay and unable to get income from unemployment at a fast rate to help me get through my classes. I got unemployment but it was not nearly as much as I made part time and that was scratching by. I was also able to get food when I was unemployed and focusing on my classes.”

Health Benefits

Health benefits include mitigating physical signs of hunger, financial stress, and feminine hygiene needs.

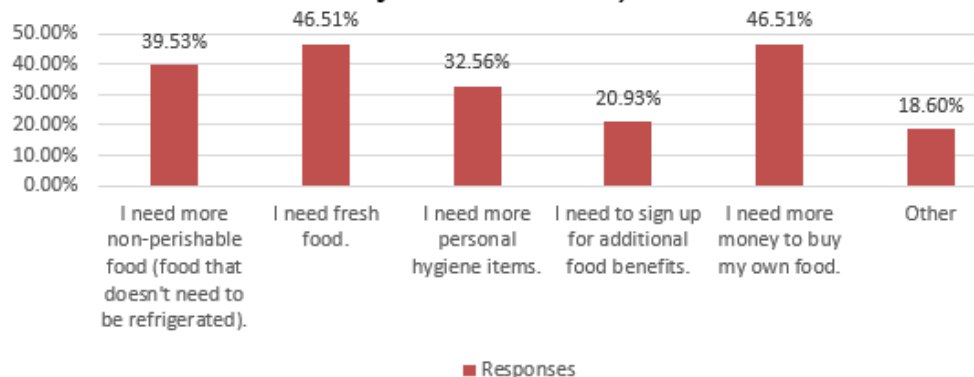
- “There have been times, I forgot money or just didn't have anything and i was able to get some food to help me focus in class. I have had hunger headaches and had nothing at all to my name and going to the campus cupboard has saved the day for me.”
- “Financial stress is incredibly distracting. When I'm hungry between classes, and can't afford to line the pockets of Lancer catering, I'm grateful to the cupboard for providing me a semblance of food security.”
- “When I got my period randomly, they supplied me menstrual products and something to make me feel better.”

COVID-19 Impact and Response

COVID-19 Impact

Generally, COVID-19 increased student need for food and hygiene items. The highest needs are for more fresh food and more money to buy their own food.

How has COVID-19 impacted your needs related to the Campus Cupboard (select all that apply and provide comments if you are able)?



COVID-19 has increased students' food insecurity:

- "It has slowed down how much I am able to eat during the day."
- "I was furloughed without pay and given low amounts of pay from unemployment once everything went through. Barely enough to cover other expenses so the cupboard helped me by offering me food at a time of need. I was also able to split my meals with a cousin who has cystic fibrosis and is unable to leave his home during this time."
- "I have not been able to have sufficient meals every day. I have been able to get feminine products by going to public bathrooms and asking if anyone has something, which is extremely embarrassing and inconvenient when I wait for over a half an hour asking over and over if someone has something until they do."
- "I'm afraid to go anywhere for food, for fear I'll catch it. I'm stuck at home."

COVID-19 Response

- Moved to temporary location in the Office for Students with Disabilities to increase ease of access.
- Increased amount of food students can take per visit to 2 bags.
- Used donated funds to purchase additional food and hygiene items.
- Partnering with Facilities to deliver food to students in limited cases.
- Collaborated with Grants to apply to emergency response funding for the Campus Cupboard.



Temporary
Campus
Cupboard

Achievements

- Earned [Hunger Free Campus](#) designation from LeadMN.
- Created the Basic Needs Advisory Committee in collaboration Student Senate, Phi Theta Kappa, and the Student Resource Center. The goal of this unofficial committee is fostering communication and collaboration between student groups and staff who are working on basic needs with the ultimate goal of further institutionalizing basic needs work and making our efforts sustainable.

- Supported Phi Theta Kappa's fall 2019 Hot Meal Event. 190 students attended; 57% of students said because of this event they learned more about the Campus Cupboard and Student Resource Center.
- The Leadership Through Service Campus Cupboard committee promoted the Cupboard through things like a pop-up Cupboard in the student center and at campus events.

Student Usage Data

Fall 2019-Spring 2020 we **served 1,145 students and distributed about 19,000 food items.**

- Unique Students Served: 1,145. This is a 47% increase from last year.
- Number of Visits: 5,865 student visits (average of 168/week). This number of visits is a 17% increase from last year.
- Food Items Distributed: 19,000 food items (average 543 items/week). This is a 21% increase from last year.

Partnership with Good in the 'Hood

Over the past year we continued our 8-year partnership with nonprofit Good in the 'Hood. Good in the 'Hood donates the majority of food we distribute and also covers our licensure and insurance cost. In-kind, this is about **\$6,500/year**. Good in the 'Hood has partnered with us since the Cupboard opened in fall 2012 and we are grateful for their extensive, ongoing support.

Student Staff and Volunteers

The Campus Cupboard is operated mainly by work-study students, Leadership Through Service members, and service-learning students. This year their involvement was halted mid-March due to COVID-19.

- 35 volunteers completed 555 hours total.
- 4 student workers completed 1,138 hours total.

Donations

We accept non-perishable food donations and hygiene items from the community. This year we received over 5,000 food items weighing over 1,800 lbs.

Demographics

- Note: Information is from the 339 students who filled out our Registration form. This data was collected through mid-March, so reflects pre-COVID demographics.
- Unemployed: 25% (86/339)
- U.S. Veteran: 1% (5/339)
- Single parent: 10% (34/339)
- Race/Ethnicity: 64% of students self-identified as students of color. This compares to Normandale's fall 2018 data where 43% of students identify as students of color showing that the Cupboard serves a higher percentage of students of color.
- Homeless: 1% (5/339). Note: we suspect this data is under-reported. According to the 2018 #RealCollege Survey 19% of Normandale students are homeless.

Opportunities for Improvement

Overall, students want more variety of food, meal vouchers for our on-campus food vendor, and fresh food.

How can we improve the Campus Cupboard (select all that apply)?



Sample student responses on opportunities for improvement:

- “A space large enough to accommodate the variety requested as well as fresh food. It would be amazing to receive salads like when VEAP comes.”
- “More options for those with dietary restrictions like egg allergies, celiac disease, or who are vegetarian.”

Ways to make these improvements:

- Collaborate with Good in the ‘Hood to get more variety of food that is more responsive to various student dietary needs.
- Build infrastructure and partnerships for fresh food.
- Work with Normandale advancement staff to seek additional funding sources to support our improvements.
- Use cash donations to purchase meal vouchers for on-campus food vendor so students could buy on campus food in the event the Campus Cupboard food does not meet their health, dietary, and cultural needs. Explore creating a program where people purchasing food on campus can round up to the nearest dollar and the extra money goes to a fund to pay for meal vouchers.