



HOW TO SUPPORT THE UWM FOOD CENTER & PANTRY

A GUIDE FOR POTENTIAL PARTNERS



ABOUT THE UWM FOOD CENTER & PANTRY



MISSION

To ensure that the entire UWM community has access to nutritious food and key necessities in a welcoming and educational space.



VISION

To not only offer food, but also cooking classes, supplies, connections to community resources, and other basic need aid.



VALUES

The values that guide our work and decision-making are dignity, privacy, respect, welcoming, accepting, & accessible.

The UWM Food Center & Pantry, located in the Student Union Room 348, offers basic necessities to members of the UWM community who have a valid ID. No proof of need is required. Patrons can visit once per week and take what they need. The pantry offers open hours twice per week and can be accessed at other times via appointment from the LGBTQ+ Resource Center, Inclusive Excellence Center, & Student Association Professional Staff. The FCP is stocked entirely by donations.

WHY WOULD A COLLEGE NEED A FOOD PANTRY?

There's an old joke that college students survive on ramen and beer. This is a lot less funny if it is your reality.

In Fall 2016, the Student Association at UWM decided to investigate food insecurity on campus by developing a campus-wide survey. The results were impossible to ignore - nearly half of student respondents indicated that they were food insecure at some point in the previous six months.

After months of focus groups and collaboration, the UWM Food Center & Pantry opened in January 2017. In the first year, the FCP served over 1,000 patrons thousands of pounds of food.

FOOD INSECURITY

is the lack of reliable access to sufficient quantities of affordable, nutritious food.

50%

of UWM students reported being food insecure during a six month span.

GET IN TOUCH



EMAIL: FOODASSIST@UWM.EDU



WEBSITE: UWM.EDU/STUDENTASSOCIATION/UWMFCP



FACEBOOK: [FACEBOOK.COM/UWMFOODASSIST](https://www.facebook.com/UWMFOODASSIST)



PHONE: 1 (414) 229-7445



AMAZON WISHLIST: [HTTPS://AMZN.TO/2XECQ5H](https://amzn.to/2XECQ5H)



HOST A FOOD DRIVE

Questions To Consider

- Who will be the coordinator/key contact?
- Who will you partner with?
- What type of items do you want to collect?
 - Food drives are most successful when they target specific items. Try collecting peanut butter & jelly or doing a drive for just spices or cooking oil.
- How will you communicate about the drive?
- Is there an event you can hold to raise even more awareness and collect goods?
- What kinds of marketing will you use?
- Do you want to make it competitive?
- How will you collect donations?
- Do you want to track the number of items or weight of items collected?
- Who will provide donation bins?
 - The FCP has a limited amount of boxes available that need to be returned.
- Who will drop the food off at the UWM Union when the drive ends?

Host an "at home" food drive!

Ask neighbors to drop food off at your place during a set amount of time. Post in neighborhood social media groups. When done, coordinate a time to drop the food off at the UWM Union!

What To Donate

High Need:

- Menstrual Products
- Toilet Paper
- Laundry Detergent
- Ready-to-eat meals
- Deodorant
- Spices & cooking oils
- Culturally affirming foods
- Toothpaste & toothbrushes
- Shelf-stable milk products

Need:

- Canned fruits, beans, soups, peas, corn, & potatoes
- Canned chicken & tuna
- Peanut butter & jelly
- Pasta & sauce
- Snacks (ie. granola bars, nuts, chips)
- Cereal
- Rice
- Soap, Shampoo, & Conditioner

Lower Need:

- Ramen
- Canned green beans & carrots
- Oatmeal
- Soda/Beverages

We don't accept:

- Medications
- Expired, perishable, or frozen foods or produce
- Dented cans or any other food that shows damage
- Unpackaged foods or paper products (so if toilet paper is in a 36 pack, it needs to stay in a 36 pack)
- Opened food

Consider...

- Is it delicious?
- Is it nutritious?
- Would I want to eat this?
- Could a college student prepare this? (ie. could it be made in a microwave or with minimal supplies)

DONATING MONEY MAKES CENTS

DUE TO A NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH FEEDING AMERICA, MONEY STRETCHES FURTHER WITH US THAN AT THE GROCERY STORE.

Feeding America is a food bank that offers food to pantries for free or deeply discounted rates. This means that we can get significantly more food purchasing through them than you could get when purchasing food at a grocery store!

Donating money also allows us to purchase things that aren't normally donated in drives, like cooking oils, spices, and hygiene products - things our patrons still need.

There are many ways to collect monetary donations, but **PLEASE DO NOT DONATE CASH**. Feel free to reach out to foodassist@uwm.edu with any questions or concerns.

WAYS TO GIVE

- **Donate online:** Visit UWM.edu/give, enter an amount, click "Give Now," and fill out the form. Ensure that you select "Other" under Fund and type that you want your donation to go to the UWM Food Center & Pantry!
- **Set up a recurring payroll deduction:** UWM faculty and staff can have donations deducted from each paycheck. Follow the instructions above for Donate Online, but click the link at the top for the Faculty/Staff form.
- **Fundraise:** Get creative with this! Do a penny war, letter-writing campaign, social media challenge, or raffle. As a reminder, please do not donate cash - instead, have someone deposit the cash and write a check.

25 CENTS CAN GET US AN ENTIRE POUND OF CANNED VEGGIES - THAT'S A LOT OF GREEN BEANS!

We love that you're donating, but **please don't give us cash!** Instead, have someone collect the cash, deposit it in their account, and write us a check. This simplifies the process for us and allows us to access the money even faster.

Make out checks to the UWM Foundation, and write UWM Food Center & Pantry in the memo line.

Mail checks to:
UWM Foundation
Attn: Food Center & Pantry
1440 E. North Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53202



VOLUNTEER

The UWM Food Center & Pantry could not operate without volunteers. Our volunteers staff the pantry, stock shelves, collect donations, sort our inventory, run committee meetings, do fundraisers, recruit volunteers through tabling, educate the campus community, and more!

If you're interested in getting involved, we can find the right volunteer opportunity for you. Contact foodassist@uwm.edu to inquire. Follow our social media to learn about our upcoming events and orientations.

Is your campus department or student organization interested in volunteering as a group?

Reach out to foodassist@uwm.edu.

We can provide an orientation at a group meeting so all of your members are able to staff the pantry.

We are also happy to help brainstorm programs, volunteer opportunities, and more. Just give us as much notice as possible!

- **Staff our open hours:** To staff open hours, volunteers MUST attend an orientation. After that, you'll serve as a clerk, checking patrons in and assisting with whatever is needed. This is a GREAT way to get service hours!
- **Assist with stocking events:** Every time we get a delivery from Feeding America or a big donation, we need help sorting food. Anyone can drop into these events and will examine food to ensure it is safe for our patrons, then stock it on the shelves. A quick training is provided at the beginning of each event, so no orientation is necessary.
- **Take on a leadership role:** The FCP is ALWAYS looking for folks who want to get involved in leadership. This could be joining a committee, supporting specific projects, becoming a team lead, or serving as a staff advisor. Email foodassist@uwm.edu for more information.
- **Adopt-a-day:** Have your on-campus organization commit to ensuring the FCP stays staffed for one day per month. Keep up with the Sign Up Genius and adopt the day, filling all volunteer slots.

The FCP is happy to work with service-learning students to meet their needs. Please contact foodassist@uwm.edu.



CULTURAL FOOD DRIVE: BATTLE OF THE OFFICES

Hosting a cultural food drive prioritizes goods that reflect the diverse social, cultural, religious, racial, and/or ethnic food needs of the entire UWM community. In this drive, offices were invited to participate and given the following instructions:

- Each dry good item is worth one point and counts “positively” toward the participant’s point total.
- Each canned good item is worth one negative point and counts “negatively” toward the participant’s point total.
- Participants who want to win will place dry goods in their box and place canned goods into other participants’ boxes.
- The participant who collects the most dry goods is the winner and receives a prize to display in their office for the year.

CAN CREATIONS

Fraternity & Sorority Life organizations were given a list of items that the FCP needed during Homecoming. They were instructed to create a structure (ensuring that they did not damage the food). Bonus points were given for high need items collected. Structures were judged on school spirit, creativity, and originality as well as number of items collected and were displayed in the Union Concourse for the entire week, after which all items were donated to the FCP. Winners received money for their organizations.



WHAT MAKES A PROGRAM SUCCESSFUL?

In the past, the most successful initiatives to support the FCP were creative, competitive, and focused on collecting high-need items.

Above we have highlighted two such programs. You can recreate these yourself, or come up with a new creative twist! Send us your ideas.

PARTNERSHIP CHECKLIST

1. Determine the type of program you'll be doing.
 - Food drive
 - Fundraising
 - Event
2. Decide who the point person will be & who you'll be partnering with.
3. Reach out to foodassist@uwm.edu to let us know your plans. We'll send you a logo.
4. Create marketing materials.
5. Distribute donation boxes.
6. Spread the word.
7. Collect donations. If you'd like, keep track of how many or the weight of items you collect.
8. Deliver your donations.
 - If you collected cash, deposit it into someone's account and send us a check.
 - If you collected goods, email foodassist@uwm.edu to schedule a time for dropping them off.
9. Send out thank-you's to everyone who participated updating them on the success of your program. If relevant, announce winners.