The WSU Friendship Food Pantry provides emergency food and referrals to students in need, helping them to stay in school and meet their educational goals.

We Value

Community
A Holistic Approach to Student Education
Inclusion
Privacy & Confidentiality
Student Centeredness
Volunteers
The WSU Friendship Food Pantry is a student-centered service staffed by volunteers. The initial Food Pantry budget was a gift from the Office of the President. Since that time 5 years ago, the Food Pantry has been sustained by donors, sponsors and volunteers.

Food insecurity among college students, particularly among those students with families is an ever growing population. On February 14, 2014, Fox News published an article entitled, “Is food insecurity on the rise among college students?” by Julie Tortora (http://www.foxnews.com/health/2014/02/14/is-food-insecurity-on-rise-among-college-students/). In the article, Ms. Tortora writes, “Gaining the ‘freshman 15’ may no longer be the biggest nutritional issue facing some college students.”

A study published by the Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior, surveyed 354 students at Western Oregon University and found that 59 percent felt that they did not have enough access to affordable, healthy foods – a condition known as food insecurity. As defined within the study, food insecurity is “the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods, and limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways.” Tortora goes on to say, “Researchers suspect the high cost of college attendance – along with the recent rise in low-income and first generation students attending college – is partially to blame because students may have less money to put towards quality food.

The WSU Friendship Food Pantry hosts events throughout the year that assist us in supporting Food Pantry initiatives. Please visit our website at http://www.wright.edu/academicaffairs/servicelearning/foodpantry/ to learn more about us and if you are inspired to do so, click on the DONATE NOW button to make a donation to support our efforts!

On behalf of the WSU Friendship Food Pantry we thank you and please enjoy the 2015 annual report information that follows this message.

Simone G. Polk, J.D., MPA, B.A.
Assistant Vice President for Student Services
Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs
In the fall of 2009, a group involved in coordinating student service-learning and community engagement activities at Wright State University discovered that a number of faculty and staff members were encountering students in need of food. A campus survey revealed that 48 percent of students polled experienced food insecurity while attending WSU. Food insecurity among students at WSU is the result of several factors.

Students attending college away from home may have access to social services in their home communities, but may have limited access in Greene County, where the University is located. Many WSU students must balance family, work and school. Some students have recently become underemployed or unemployed. These difficulties have become increasingly problematic for college students during our present economic conditions, especially for students with families. This discovery led Cathy Sayer, former Director of Service-Learning and Civic Engagement to write a Host Site application to secure an AmeriCorps*VISTA employee. Rebecca Fensler, an Ohio Campus Compact AmeriCorps*VISTA employee, served as the Food Pantry’s first the coordinator from 2011 through 2012.

Beginning in May 2012, administration for the WSU Friendship Food Pantry transitioned to the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs.

The Friendship Food Pantry came a long way in its efforts to serve Wright State students under the leadership of Felix E. Torres, Graduate Assistant in the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, who served as the Pantry’s second coordinator from 2012 to 2014. Under Felix’s leadership, the Pantry was the recipient of the President’s Award for Excellence – Outstanding Collaborative Unit. This was quite an accomplishment and evidence of the collaborative spirit that will continue to support the Pantry’s success for many years to come.
Carine moved from France to the United States 16 years ago. Not only is English her second language, but she is a non-traditional student and the mother of five children. She is definitely not the typical student, and she believes her diverse life experiences and personal story are great strengths that inspire and motivate other students in their personal and academic development.

After pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Psychology at WSU, she enrolled as a graduate student in the Student Affairs in Higher Education Graduate Program and the Masters Program in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. Since she’s always wanted to help people, she chose those two programs to be able to connect her passion for Psychology with her love for the student population and the campus atmosphere.

While working as the Food Pantry Coordinator from 2014 to 2016, she felt that it was the perfect graduate assistantship opportunity. She really enjoyed every aspect of her position. Not only was it great to work in an inclusive environment where diversity, caring, empathy, and a sense of belonging are encouraged, taught and developed; but she felt very connected to students, volunteers, donors, collaborators, and colleagues. Carine graduates on Saturday, April 30, 2016.

Carine commented that she feel blessed and at the same time humbled to have served the needs of Wright State students!
Simply One: The FFP in collaboration with Simply One participated in a Food Drive to help pantries across Greene Country. In total, the FFP received 368 pounds of food.

Leadership Studies Food Drive: During the month of March, the department of Leadership Studies hosted a Food Drive in collaboration with the FFP. They collected 126.5 pounds of food.

"Canstruction": The Panhellenic Council in collaboration with the WSU Friendship Food Pantry collected 1,485 pounds of food at the annual "Canstruction" event during Greek Week.

Valentine’s Day: The American Marketing Association hosted a Food Drive in collaboration with the WSU Friendship Food Pantry. This event raised 56.8 pounds of food.

Rowdy 500 & Hunger Cup: This year, The Rowdy 500 annual event took place in conjunction with the Hunger Cup, a competition between Wright State University and the University of Dayton organized by the Dayton Foodbank, BOGG Ministries, and the FFP. The goal was to collect more food items and monetary donations than our competitor to defeat hunger in the Miami Valley. Our event raised 2,018 pounds of food, and $1,299. The University of Dayton raised $455 and 854 pounds of food items. These events were a great success!

WSU’s Health & Benefits Fair: During WSU’s Health & Benefits Fair, the names of attendees who gave a cash donation to the Friendship Food Pantry were entered into a 50/50 raffle. This event raised $190.

International Food Drive: For the first time, the FFP organized a food drive in collaboration with the University Center for International Education. The objective of the event was to collect international food items for our growing international student population. The FFP received 94.6 pounds of international food.

The Haunted Trail: Residence Life & Housing staff collected two food items as the entry fee for students that wanted to go through the scary haunted trail. The event raised 883 pounds of food.

Thanksgiving Baskets: In collaboration with Chartwells, 21 Wright State students received a Thanksgiving Basket, which included several items such as a turkey, corn, green beans, rolls, yams, and mashed potatoes.

Sigma Dinner of Thanks: The FFP worked in collaboration with Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity who hosted an event to provide a thanksgiving meal for 43 students who stayed on campus for the holidays.

Student Affairs Thanksgiving Potluck: 79.4 pounds of food and $135 in gift cards were collected during a meal shared and organized by the Student Affairs Staff Development Committee.

Cinema Therapy Night: Chi Sigma Iota hosted Cinema Therapy Night-Disney Pixar’s “Inside Out” followed by a discussion with the Miami Valley Counseling Association about mental illness, emotion well-being, and personality. Food items for the FFP were collected as an entry fee. This evening event raised 54.1 pounds of food.

Dunbar Library Winter Luncheon: 227.9lbs and $20 in Gift Cards were donated to the FFP during the annual winter lunch organized by the staff from the library.
WHAT DO STUDENTS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THE PANTRY?

“It really helped me to get the food and cut my monthly expenses for food to some extent; thanks for WSU.

“The FFP has helped me a lot. With monthly food costs, thanksgiving dinner, and diapers for my baby. Much appreciated!!”

“It has helped me several times when I was low on groceries. Really love it.”

“It gave me support and strength for my food needs on which I wasn’t able to provide on my own.”

“FFP is awesome and gives me a sense of security.”

“I volunteer there and from not only a volunteer's point of view but as a client there, you have such a different point of view. I find it amazing that Wright State has a Food Pantry available to current students. Plus, it helped me realize that there is something to help everyone in need.

“The FFP has helped me when I ran out of food, they suggested additional outside sources that I might need, and the staff was personable and caring.”

“Helped me from having to make the decision about eating or paying bills.”

“This is my second time at FFP; I don't have any scholarships so sometimes I struggle for basic needs. The FFP is really a good idea.”

“They provided me with a way to make it through the month while I tried to help watch out for my little sister and make it through this semester without only eating a limited amount of food that is given on my wright one card.”
STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Total meals served: 6966

Total number of people served by the Food Pantry: 774

STUDENT VISITS

Total number of visits: 525

Number of students who used the Pantry at least once: 304

Percentage of New Client visits: 69%

Percentage of Repeat visits: 31%

Average number of monthly student visits: 44

ENROLLMENT

88% of students are full-time, while 12% are part-time.

AGE

Average age: 25 years old

GENDER

52% male

48% female

RESIDENCY

80% of students are commuters

20% lived on campus

STATUS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freshman</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sophomore</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate</td>
<td>65%</td>
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</table>
## STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

### REASON FOR FOOD NEED (in %) 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed and can’t always afford food</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insufficient financial aid</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of financial support from family</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed, but can’t always afford food</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unexpected event</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trouble budgeting and ran out of money</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insufficient/ran out of Dining Dollars</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Struggle to support family while going to school</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insufficient Food Stamp benefit</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awaiting Food Stamp benefit</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Stamp benefit terminated</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ETHNICITY *

- **60%** are International students
- **40%** are Domestic students

![Bar chart showing ethnicity distribution](chart)

* The ethnicity of the dependents of clients is not included in this calculation
STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

7% have dependents

93% do not have dependents

HOW STUDENTS HEARD ABOUT THE PANTRY (in %)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Website/Social Media</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past Client</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing</td>
<td>4%</td>
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</table>

FINANCIAL SOURCES (in %)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>RECEIVED IN 2014</th>
<th>RECEIVED IN 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scholarships</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pell Grants</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Loans</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money from Family</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
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"Volunteering at the Friendship Food Pantry lets me feel like I'm giving back to the Wright State community, which is important because I feel like this community has given me so much. Volunteering is a great way to get involved and feel more connected to Wright State. I've met so many kind, caring people during my time at the Friendship Food Pantry. It always makes my day to feel like I've helped another student, through serving them and listening to their stories. I feel very proud to be a small part of the good work that the Friendship Food Pantry does for Wright State students.”

**Alyzabeth Hicks**

"I love volunteering for the Friendship Food Pantry! It definitely has its advantages, like being able to help others and meeting new people around campus!" Jasmine Jacobs

"Volunteering at the food pantry has definitely been my favorite and most meaningful experience here at Wright State. I have made so many meaningful relationships with others, and have made a difference in other individuals lives. Volunteering for the Friendship Food Pantry has been the best decision I have made here at Wright State.”

**Kayla Gehle**

"The Friendship Food Pantry is an amazing part of Wright State's campus because the focus is on our own students in the community and making a safe place for people to come to. It has been an honor to volunteer there and I have been truly inspired."  

**Daniela Fisher**
VOLUNTEER DEMOGRAPHICS

34 Total Food Pantry Volunteers

CITIZENSHIP
10 volunteers are International
24 are Domestic

GENDER
30% male
70% female

VOLUNTEER HOURS
Total number of volunteer hours worked 614

AFFILIATION

Student  Staff  Faculty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Staff</th>
<th>Faculty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank you to our donors for making a difference in the lives of our students! The WSU Friendship Food Pantry would not be possible without your generous support!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FUNDING</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fund &amp; Org Balance</td>
<td>$11,936.72</td>
<td>$12,244.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>$193.93</td>
<td>$2,902.27</td>
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<tr>
<td>In Kind &amp; Fundraising Donations</td>
<td>$6,373.25</td>
<td>$11,570.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Value of Tangible Items)</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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FOOD Pantry Advisory Board Members

Carine Verlin, SAHE Graduate Assistant and Pantry Coordinator, 2014—2016

Mary Case, SAHE Graduate Assistant and Pantry Coordinator, 2016—2018

Simone G. Polk, J.D., MPA, B.A.  
Assistant Vice President for Student Services, OVPSA

Elizabeth Kimmel  
Undergraduate Student, FFP Volunteer

Katie Deedrick, MA, L.P.C.  
Director, Student Support Services, Student Affairs

Melissa Rubins  
Assistant to the Dean, College of Education and Human Services

Mary Zurawka  
Administrative Support Coordinator, Crime and Justice Studies Program, College of Liberal Arts

Dr. Sarah E. Twill, Ph.D., M.S.W.  
Chair, Department of Social Work, College of Liberal Arts

Contact Information

Simone G. Polk  
Assistant Vice President for Student Services  
Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs  
simone.polk@wright.edu  
(937) 775-2808

https://www.facebook.com/WSUFriendshipFoodPantry

The Wright State University Friendship Food Pantry — Annual Report 2015

WSU Winners of the 2015 Hunger Cup