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The Campus Kitchen at UMASS Boston Student-Powered Hunger Relief in Boston

Office of Student Leadership and Community Engagement, University of Massachusetts Boston

Walter Denney Youth Center

Housing Opportunities Unlimited

St. Peter's Teen Center

John Winthrop Elementary

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Authors

Office of Student Leadership and Community Engagement, University of Massachusetts Boston; Walter Denney Youth Center; Housing Opportunities Unlimited; St. Peter's Teen Center; John Winthrop Elementary; Project ALERTA, University of Massachusetts Boston; Camp Shriver, University of Massachusetts Boston; Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, Inc.; and Sodexo



The Campus Kitchen at UMASS Boston

Student-Powered Hunger Relief in Boston

Office of Student Leadership and Community Engagement, Walter Denney Youth Center, Housing Opportunities Unlimited, St. Peter's Teen Center, John Winthrop Elementary, Project ALERTA, Camp Shriver, Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, Inc., Sodexo

Summary/Abstract

The Campus Kitchen at the University of Massachusetts Boston (CKUMB) is a part of The Campus Kitchens Project. (CKP), a national network of student volunteers, works to rescue excess food to create meals for those in need. CKUMB opened in 2010 to provide meals for the Dorchester community.

By taking the initiative to run a community kitchen, students develop entrepreneurial and leadership skills, along with a commitment to serve their community, that they will carry with them into future careers.



Goals and Objectives

CKUMB seeks to foster sustainable solutions to hunger. Direct hunger relief and food resourcing are at the heart of this work.

In addition to providing healthy food to those in need, we also aim to provide tools for our clients to maintain food security. Nutrition education; increased access to healthy food through community resources and aid; and a strengthened and supportive community are all elements that CKUMB supports on behalf of our clients.

Finally, so that the mission of our work does not stop at CKUMB, we support a team of student Leaders to implement our work. These Leaders gain the experience to become an impactful and informed next generation in the fight against hunger.

teach. reach. feed. lead.

Partners and Resources

Our year-round client agencies include:

Walter Denney Youth Center
Saint Peter's Teen Center
Dever McCormack School
U-ACCESS Food Pantry
Harbor Point Apartments
Washington Beech Apartments
Hearty Meals for All

Our summer client agencies include:

Project ALERTA
Project Reach
Camp Shriver

Our food resourcing partners include:

Sodexo at UMass Boston
Sodexo at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston
Food for Free
Student Arts and Events Council (SAEC)

We receive support and guidance from:

UMass Boston Office of Student Leadership and Community Engagement
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute/Food SNAP Coalition
NYC Coalition Against Hunger (through their AmeriCorps VISTA program)

Funding:

We receive funding from a variety of sources. As an affiliate of The Campus Kitchens Project, we receive funding from them each year. We have also been fortunate enough to receive significant funding from AARP for the past two years.



Impact

In the 2012-2013 school year, CKUMB:

- Engaged 479 volunteers in 1530 volunteer hours
- Grew from a Leadership Team of 3 students to a Leadership Team of 14 committed and active students
- Recovered 13,006 pounds of food
- Prepared 11,894 nutritious meals which served a total of 419 clients
- Delivered meals to 5 client agencies
- Grew from offering programming to 1 site each week to offering programming to as many as 5 sites each week
- Added \$36,871 in economic value to our community from the meals provided
- Helped clients gain over \$1250 in SNAP (food stamps) benefits



Student Involvement

Number of students involved: 14 Leaders and approximately 60 volunteers each month
Leaders contribute 3-10 each week.
Volunteers contribute 1-6 hours each week.
We average about 140 volunteer hours each month.

Student roles: Leaders take on roles guiding our Kitchen Operations, Nutrition Education, SNAP Outreach, Garden Maintenance and more. General volunteers help us to prepare our meals in the kitchen.

Approaches

Each week, CKUMB rescues hundreds of pounds of perfectly good food that would otherwise be discarded. With this food we create meals for nearly 300 clients.

Our supplementary programming focuses on holistic health for all ages including:

- wellness workshops for Seniors
- classroom and garden nutrition programs for youth
- engagement with the Columbia Point Community Garden; and SNAP application assistance for any of our eligible clients.

All of this work is led by the Leadership Team with the assistance of UMB and community volunteers.

Contact



Liz Moniz, Coordinator
emoniz@campuskitchens.org
617.287.7909
Office of Student Leadership and Community Engagement, #3407

VOLUNTEER:
campuskitchen.org/bostonvolunteer

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