Addressing Campus Food Issues through Student Organization Collaborations

Dr. Miranda Sue Terry, Dr. Nancy Shepherd, Joy Hammonds, Brittany Hearnsberger, Stephen Decker

Department of Kinesiology and Health Science; School of Human Sciences; Hunger Jacks
Stephen F. Austin State University

Abstract

With the rising cost of tuition, college students have difficult decisions to make between school, work, housing, food, utilities, medical bills, to name a few. For example, according to the Huffington Post, there are over 58,000 homeless college students in the United States (Ashtari, 2014). Colleges have a task of keep their students safe, which is reiterated in their student codes and university policies. Yet, one of the aspects rarely taken into consideration is the students’ access to food, which is a safety concern. While most colleges offer meal plans, there are issues with the upfront expense of meal plans and guessing how much food one will eat the entire semester. In addition, students who are hungry or worrying about where their next meal is going to come from have worse academic outcomes (Yothy et al. 2005). Colleges need to have resources to assist students both in and out of the classroom. Hunger Jacks, a student organization at Stephen F. Austin State University (SFA), partnered up with Student Government and Sprout at SFA Community Gardens to address these concerns resulting in two resources being developed on campus: Food for Thought food pantry and Fresh Food Fridays.

Growth in college Food Pantries

Michigan State University open the first student food bank in 1993. It would remain the only on campus student food bank until 2008. The number of food pantries on college campuses has increased rapidly in the past six years – especially at colleges with a lot of low-income or first generation students. Now there are well over 100 student food pantries across the country, and that number is certain to increase as awareness of this issue grows.

Meeting the Need at Stephen F. Austin State University

In response to the growing awareness of food insecurities on college campuses, student organizations have partnered with Faculty and Staff across campus to address this issue at SFA. Through the efforts of Hunger Jacks and the Student Government Association the Food for Thought Student Food Pantry has been established on the SFA Campus.

Food for Thought’s Mission

The purpose of Food for Thought Student Food Pantry is to provide supplemental healthy food to SFA students who are experiencing food insecurities.

Eligibility

The only requirement to be eligible for Food for Thought services is to be enrolled for the current semester, maintain good standing, and with proof of enrollment.

How to become a volunteer

Food for Thought Student Food Pantry volunteers will get the following:

• 30 hours of service credit for all student volunteers
• Tuition fees

Volunteer opportunities are available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3 pm to 6 pm and are open to all SFA students.

Targeted items needed include:

• Canned Vegetables
• Rice & Rice Sides
• Pasta & Pasta Sides
• Spaghetti Sauce
• Macaroni & Cheese
• Canned Chicken
• Canned Beans
• Canned Fruit & Fruit Juice
• Boxed Cereal & Oatmeal
• Peanut Butter & Jelly
• Canned Soup
• Chef Boyardee
• Canned Tuna
• Salt, Pepper & Spices

Meeting the Need at

Stephen F. Austin State University

In response to the growing awareness of food insecurities on college campuses, student organizations have partnered with Faculty and Staff across campus to address this issue at SFA. Through the efforts of Hunger Jacks and the Student Government Association the Food for Thought Student Food Pantry has been established on the SFA Campus.

Food for Thought’s Mission

The purpose of Food for Thought Student Food Pantry is to provide supplemental healthy food to SFA students who are experiencing food insecurities.

Eligibility

The only requirement to be eligible for Food for Thought services is to be enrolled for the current semester, maintain good standing, and with proof of enrollment.

How to become a volunteer

Food for Thought Student Food Pantry volunteers will get the following:

• 30 hours of service credit for all student volunteers
• Tuition fees

Volunteer opportunities are available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3 pm to 6 pm and are open to all SFA students.

Targeted items needed include:

• Canned Vegetables
• Rice & Rice Sides
• Pasta & Pasta Sides
• Spaghetti Sauce
• Macaroni & Cheese
• Canned Chicken
• Canned Beans
• Canned Fruit & Fruit Juice
• Boxed Cereal & Oatmeal
• Peanut Butter & Jelly
• Canned Soup
• Chef Boyardee
• Canned Tuna
• Salt, Pepper & Spices

Meeting the Need at

Stephen F. Austin State University

In response to the growing awareness of food insecurities on college campuses, student organizations have partnered with Faculty and Staff across campus to address this issue at SFA. Through the efforts of Hunger Jacks and the Student Government Association the Food for Thought Student Food Pantry has been established on the SFA Campus.

Food for Thought’s Mission

The purpose of Food for Thought Student Food Pantry is to provide supplemental healthy food to SFA students who are experiencing food insecurities.

Eligibility

The only requirement to be eligible for Food for Thought services is to be enrolled for the current semester, maintain good standing, and with proof of enrollment.

How to become a volunteer

Food for Thought Student Food Pantry volunteers will get the following:

• 30 hours of service credit for all student volunteers
• Tuition fees

Volunteer opportunities are available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3 pm to 6 pm and are open to all SFA students.

Targeted items needed include:

• Canned Vegetables
• Rice & Rice Sides
• Pasta & Pasta Sides
• Spaghetti Sauce
• Macaroni & Cheese
• Canned Chicken
• Canned Beans
• Canned Fruit & Fruit Juice
• Boxed Cereal & Oatmeal
• Peanut Butter & Jelly
• Canned Soup
• Chef Boyardee
• Canned Tuna
• Salt, Pepper & Spices

Meeting the Need at

Stephen F. Austin State University

In response to the growing awareness of food insecurities on college campuses, student organizations have partnered with Faculty and Staff across campus to address this issue at SFA. Through the efforts of Hunger Jacks and the Student Government Association the Food for Thought Student Food Pantry has been established on the SFA Campus.

Food for Thought’s Mission

The purpose of Food for Thought Student Food Pantry is to provide supplemental healthy food to SFA students who are experiencing food insecurities.

Eligibility

The only requirement to be eligible for Food for Thought services is to be enrolled for the current semester, maintain good standing, and with proof of enrollment.

How to become a volunteer

Food for Thought Student Food Pantry volunteers will get the following:

• 30 hours of service credit for all student volunteers
• Tuition fees

Volunteer opportunities are available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3 pm to 6 pm and are open to all SFA students.

Targeted items needed include:

• Canned Vegetables
• Rice & Rice Sides
• Pasta & Pasta Sides
• Spaghetti Sauce
• Macaroni & Cheese
• Canned Chicken
• Canned Beans
• Canned Fruit & Fruit Juice
• Boxed Cereal & Oatmeal
• Peanut Butter & Jelly
• Canned Soup
• Chef Boyardee
• Canned Tuna
• Salt, Pepper & Spices

Meeting the Need at

Stephen F. Austin State University

In response to the growing awareness of food insecurities on college campuses, student organizations have partnered with Faculty and Staff across campus to address this issue at SFA. Through the efforts of Hunger Jacks and the Student Government Association the Food for Thought Student Food Pantry has been established on the SFA Campus.

Food for Thought’s Mission

The purpose of Food for Thought Student Food Pantry is to provide supplemental healthy food to SFA students who are experiencing food insecurities.

Eligibility

The only requirement to be eligible for Food for Thought services is to be enrolled for the current semester, maintain good standing, and with proof of enrollment.

How to become a volunteer

Food for Thought Student Food Pantry volunteers will get the following:

• 30 hours of service credit for all student volunteers
• Tuition fees

Volunteer opportunities are available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3 pm to 6 pm and are open to all SFA students.

Targeted items needed include:

• Canned Vegetables
• Rice & Rice Sides
• Pasta & Pasta Sides
• Spaghetti Sauce
• Macaroni & Cheese
• Canned Chicken
• Canned Beans
• Canned Fruit & Fruit Juice
• Boxed Cereal & Oatmeal
• Peanut Butter & Jelly
• Canned Soup
• Chef Boyardee
• Canned Tuna
• Salt, Pepper & Spices

Meeting the Need at

Stephen F. Austin State University

In response to the growing awareness of food insecurities on college campuses, student organizations have partnered with Faculty and Staff across campus to address this issue at SFA. Through the efforts of Hunger Jacks and the Student Government Association the Food for Thought Student Food Pantry has been established on the SFA Campus.

Food for Thought’s Mission

The purpose of Food for Thought Student Food Pantry is to provide supplemental healthy food to SFA students who are experiencing food insecurities.

Eligibility

The only requirement to be eligible for Food for Thought services is to be enrolled for the current semester, maintain good standing, and with proof of enrollment.

How to become a volunteer

Food for Thought Student Food Pantry volunteers will get the following:

• 30 hours of service credit for all student volunteers
• Tuition fees

Volunteer opportunities are available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3 pm to 6 pm and are open to all SFA students.

Targeted items needed include:

• Canned Vegetables
• Rice & Rice Sides
• Pasta & Pasta Sides
• Spaghetti Sauce
• Macaroni & Cheese
• Canned Chicken
• Canned Beans
• Canned Fruit & Fruit Juice
• Boxed Cereal & Oatmeal
• Peanut Butter & Jelly
• Canned Soup
• Chef Boyardee
• Canned Tuna
• Salt, Pepper & Spices