

Leslie Huang, Jowyn Chan, Danielle Chan, Kara Fleck
Team Name: Bottom Feeders
Username: BottomFeedersPGC
bottomfeederspgc@gmail.com
Binghamton University

Day 13

Although I was unable to find the exact statistics of what percentage of Binghamton University students are food insecure, a 2016 report by Students Against Hunger stated that 48% of college students had experienced food insecurity or a lack of access to affordable, nutritious food in the last 30 days.

Despite this alarmingly high number, I know that Binghamton University participates in the Food Recovery Network, which is a student movement aimed to fight food waste and feed people. I've seen the Food Recovery Network sticker whenever I go to the dining halls to get breakfast, and after doing a little bit of research, I found out that Binghamton University started participating in this program since 2014, and as of today, it has donated over 173,000 pounds of food, as seen in the images below.

Another thing that I discovered with my research is that there is a variety of resources/clubs/organizations available on campus whose main aim is to target food waste and food insecurity. For example, one of the resources available is called the Bear Necessities Food Pantry, which is an entire room stocked with canned goods, toiletries, and frozen meals. They often go major giveaways to promote themselves to students who are unaware of them; for instance, on October 4th, the Bear Necessities gave away fresh produce for any student who arrived, no questions asked. In order to be a more active member in tackling the problem of food insecurity on campus, I want to start donating any excess food I have to the Bear Necessities.

Or, an alternative method is for me to apply for an internship position there; since Bear Necessities is a student-run organization, a team of interns is needed to manage everything there. In doing so, I know that I can definitely implement some changes there; for instance, I want to raise awareness about the problem of food insecurity on campus and I intend to do this by promoting the club through more produce giveaways, holding more donations/fundraising events in order to stock the pantry with healthier and organic items, and by reorganizing the social media/marketing position to make more people aware that there is relief available for students who are food insecure.

SUNY BINGHAMTON

City: Vistal

State: NY

Date of founding: March 2014

Recovery locations: Hinman, C4, CIW, Appalachian, Tillman Cafe, The Marketplace, Hillel at Binghamton

Partner agencies: Volunteers of America, Salvation Army, CHOW

FACEBOOK

POUNDS-TO-DATE

DONATE

Image 1. Screenshot of Binghamton University's participation in Food Recovery Network



NY SUNY Binghamton FRN_Food_Tracking_Template (Responses)

File Edit View Insert Format Data Tools Add-ons Help

100% View only

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Total Pounds to Date	173,549.39				
2	Spring 17	16,923.87				
3	Fall 16	22,266.0				
4	Winter 16	0				
5	Fall 15	8000				
6	Summer 15	1450				
7	Spring 15	26000				
8	Fall 14	7275.45				
9	Spring 14	1207.6				
10	Fall 17	18,827.37				
11	Spring 18	39398.1				
12	Fall 2018	32201				
13	Spring 2019	0				
14	Fall 2019	0				
15						

Image 2. A spreadsheet of the total pounds of food that Binghamton University has donated



Home > Dean of Students > Programs and Services > Bear Necessities Food Pantry

Location and hours

We are now located in Nelson A Rockefeller Center (RC) 168 (connected to Hinman Collegiate Center), overseen by [Off Campus College](#).

During the academic year, the food pantry is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Why we offer a pantry

Food insecurity has increasingly become an issue on college and university campuses and can pose a significant barrier to student success. Many students come to campus with limited resources and little experience managing their needs. Hunger makes it difficult to study, sleep, or engage in academics and social activities at the same level as peers. If our students' physiological needs aren't being met, it ultimately decreases the chances of meeting their full potential and their overall experience at Binghamton University. The pantry is equipped to provide a variety of food and personal care items for our students in need.

How to use the pantry

Students who wish to access the Bear Necessities Pantry are welcome and encouraged to visit RC-168. Please bring a University ID.

Upcoming produce giveaways

The Bear Necessities Food Pantry regularly hosts giveaways to provide students with fresh produce. Check below for a list of upcoming dates and locations:

Time	Date	Location
1:30-5:30 p.m.	Oct. 4	UU 102

Donate to the pantry

We are sustained by the generosity of our donors. We seek donations of perishable and non-perishable food items as well as personal care items and small household items. For those who wish to donate to the Bear Necessities Pantry, items can be dropped off between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. We are also willing to pick up items. Give us a call at 607-777-2768 or [fill out this form](#) if you'd like to donate.

Contact the food pantry at occ@binghamton.edu.

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 - Bear Necessities Food Pantry
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 - The Dean's Team
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Image 3. Bear Necessities Food Pantry webpage