

FEED *-the-* PACK

THE FOOD PANTRY AT NC STATE

Annual Report

2021-2022

“The mission of Feed the Pack Food Pantry is to meet the food needs of our community with dignity and respect.”

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Message from the Program Coordinator

Almost five years ago I moved to Raleigh and started at NCSU. Not long after my arrival I met the team that operated the Feed the Pack Food Pantry. In October of 2017 I became a Graduate Assistant for Student Leadership and Engagement and started my role as the advisor of Feed the Pack. After earning my Master's degree in 2020 I made the decision to stay with Student Leadership and Engagement, as well as the Feed the Pack Food Pantry for two more years. Although this was not my original plan, it was a decision I made quickly and without regrets.

This past year I have reflected back on my time with the food pantry. For those that may not know or remember, in 2017 the food pantry was still housed in Broughton Hall, a temporary, inaccessible location. While it may not have been an ideal location, it provided us with the space and opportunity to serve our campus community. It was more than most schools had and we were grateful for what we were able to do. However, in 2018 we were able to move FTP to the Quad Commons, a location that was previously a C-Store. I worked with a group of advisors and stakeholders to learn what needed to be done before, during, and after the move and started from there. With a group of volunteers and a very rainy day in August 2018, the pantry found its fourth home where we have happily resided since.

Over the years Feed the Pack has accomplished many milestones in addition to the last move. In the 2020-2021 academic year, Feed the Pack distributed over 130,000 pounds of food; more than the pantry distributed from 2012-2019 combined. In the 2021-2022 academic year, Feed the Pack distributed 125,405 pounds of food, reaching a total of 393,224 pounds of food distributed in 9 years. Feed the Pack also made the decision to have three paid interns this year that operate the behind the scenes of the pantry. We have also worked with various organizations, departments, and units across campus to provide educational programming to help share our story and the issue of food insecurity.

It is no surprise that Feed the Pack relies heavily on the support of our community. Whether it is serving on our leadership team or advisory board, donating, volunteering, partnering or simply being an advocate for the work that we do, I cannot thank you enough or express my gratitude for your support. The past five years have been more than I could have imagined or asked for. I have not only seen the pantry grow and change over the years but I have also seen every student, both team members and volunteers, and myself, grow and change as well. I am incredibly proud of every student who served on our team and I fully trust them to continue to make the pantry whatever it needs to be moving forward. To say that I am blessed for my experience is an understatement. I will forever be grateful to everyone that supported me and the food pantry along the way, and I will miss NC State greatly. I am confident that everyone will continue to advocate for the food pantry and fight food insecurity in the years to come. Goodbye for now and stay well.



Warmly,

Dana Petre

Message from the Director of Student Leadership and Engagement

As we prepare to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the creation of the Feed the Pack Food Pantry in November 2022, I reflect on the 2021-2022 academic year as a pivotal year. Following the unprecedented previous year, this year was used to strategically enhance the infrastructure and operations of the pantry while also increasing capacity, growing the network of advocates and stakeholders, furthering fundraising and development efforts, and collaborating with internal and external partners to envision the future efforts to address food insecurity and basic needs within our NC State community



As our society continues to grapple with the complexities and the intersections of economic impacts, threats to our democracy, inflation, equitable access to resources and services, and the ongoing exploitation of our lowest wage earners – along with many other grand challenges, our most vulnerable populations continue to experience oppression, marginalization, and struggles to meet their most basic of needs.

Each year, we acknowledge the need for the pantry even more than in past years. This year has been no different. I can confidently state again this year that the critical importance and relevance of the Feed the Pack Food Pantry, Pack Essentials, and efforts to address systemic inequities and the basic needs of our community, have never been greater.

We continue to be grateful for the sustained support of the NC State and local community for the past nearly 10 years. The Feed the Pack leadership team, nearly 200 volunteers, university and external stakeholders, advocates, and donors continue to show up for the Wolfpack community. And we thank you.

As you reflect on the information highlighted in this report, I encourage you today and always, to reflect and envision an NC State community where every member has access to plentiful, safe, nutritious, and culturally relevant food. I also invite you to consider the role you can play to help progress from vision to reality. Whether a volunteer, patron, donor, or advocate, we all have meaningful roles to play in supporting the Feed the Pack Food Pantry and in all efforts to meet the needs of our community. In service and solidarity,

Melissa V. Green
Director, Student Leadership and Engagement

2021-2022 Leadership Team



2022-2023 Student Leadership Team



Advisory Board

While the day-to-day operations of the food pantry are handled by Feed the Pack's advisors and Student Leadership Team, the Advisory Board is responsible for supporting the strategic vision of the pantry. The Advisory Board meets twice a semester and works closely with the Student Leadership Team and Student Leadership and Engagement to equip the pantry with resources to carry out long-term goals. Since the Advisory Board is composed of students, faculty, and staff from different spheres within the NC State community, they holistically address the issues that the pantry faces. By leveraging their individual networks and areas of expertise, they provide sustainable, long-lasting solutions for challenges the pantry faces.

This year, the team added new representatives in an effort to better represent Feed the Pack's patron demographics. For example, we now have someone from the Graduate Student Association, Nick Ramirez, on our board, since the majority of our student patrons are in masters programs here at State. In addition to Nick, we'd like to welcome Mike Gary, Dave, Lindsey, Arlene, Doris, and Mumtahina to the board!

2022-2023 New Advisory Board Members

Brian Mathis, Representative, *Office of Student Leadership and Engagement*

Nicki Peterson, Representative, *DASA Development*

Mike Giancola, Representative, *PACK Essentials*

Gary Tessinari, Representative, *NC State Dining*

Lauren Ball, Representative, *Office of International Services*

Maggie Kane, Community Representative, *A Place at the Table*

Dave Johnson, Representative, *Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity*

Lindsey Haynes-Manslow, Faculty Representative, *Department of Psychology*

Ada Baldwin, Representative, *University Housekeeping*

Arlene Mabry, Staff Senate Representative, *Staff Senate Chair, Communication Technologies*

Doris Wesley, PHD Student Representative, *Communications*

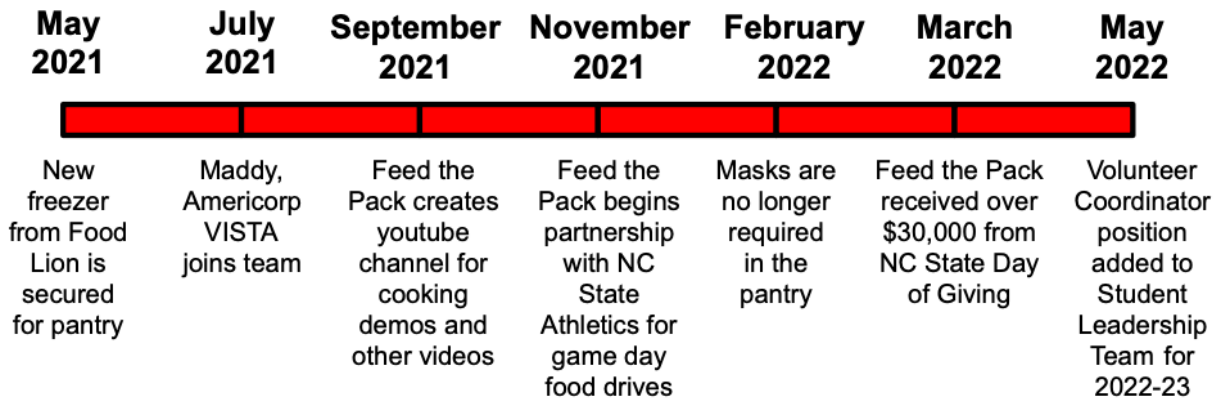
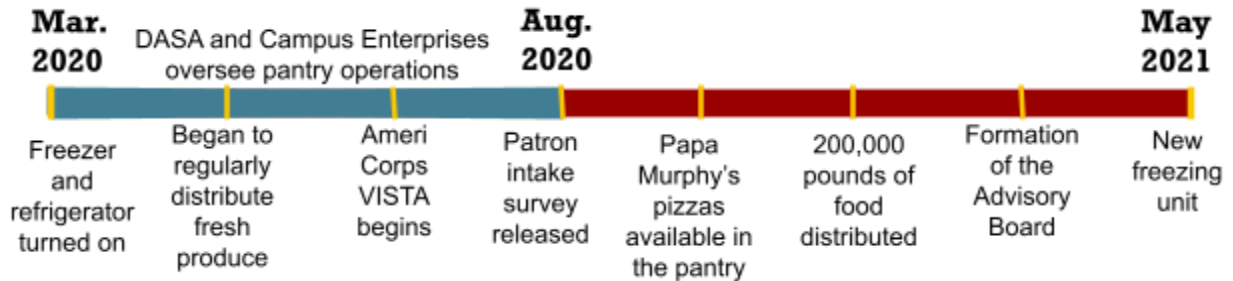
Mumtahina Riza, Graduate Student Representative, *Intuitive Biology*

Marquette Russell, Staff Representative, *University Honors Program*

Nick Ramirez, Graduate Student Association Representative, *Psychology*

McKenzy Heavlin, Student Government Representative, *Student Body President*

History



Feed the Pack was founded in 2012 by a group of students and staff concerned about food insecurity on campus. The pantry was originally housed in Harrelson Hall and provided only non-perishable food and hygiene items. In 2013, the first calendar year that Feed the Pack operated, the pantry had 487 visits. In 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, that number increased to 8,274, a 1500% increase since 2013. As of April 2021, Feed the Pack has distributed over 267,000 pounds of food.

Year in Review

This was a fruitful year for Feed the Pack as the food pantry continued to bloom into the COVID-19 pandemic. While it has been a hectic year, it has been a great year!

May 2021 - The new Student Leadership Team transitioned into their paid internship roles. Feed the Pack had the remaining countertops in the back of the pantry removed, clearing the space for a new freezing unit that will arrive later in the month courtesy of Food Lion and Traulsen.

June 2021 - During the last few months of 2019 and into 2020, we consistently saw monthly donations in the range of \$8,000-\$10,000. We saw this slow down to around \$5,000 in March, April, and May. We were worried our COVID-19 donations were beginning to diminish, until we received over \$14,000 in June. We never doubt our Pack anymore.

July 2021 - July was a month for beginnings and ends. While Ameen gave his final capstone presentation for Feed the Pack and transitioned out of his role, our new Americorps VISTA Maddy Smith was hired!

August 2021 - In the time of COVID, the only certainty was uncertainty. While some mask requirements were reduced around campus, they were still required in the classroom and were continued to be required in the food pantry. We also rolled out our first ever virtual volunteer training on Moodle, that helped us efficiently train over 100 volunteers!



Feed the Pack's 2021 Orientation Video

September 2021 - Feed the Pack goes digital baby! In September, we finally created a youtube channel, where we posted our first ever cooking demo with PARK students, Sami and Nicholas. This coupled with a Twitch stream we participated in with University Libraries System and an

informational video with Roberts Entrepreneurial Group helped get the ball rolling, talking about Feed the Pack and food insecurity.

October 2021 - October saw Feed the Pack branching out, giving donor tours of our pantry and its operations, as well as a month long food drive/joint event with UAB. We also re-started our partnership with Food Recovery to start giving out refrigerated recovered food in the pantry.

November 2021 - More partnerships! Feed the Pack kicked off its' partnership with NC State athletics by hosting food drives at multiple men's and women's basketball games. FTP also partnered with Annual Giving to host the first ever Pantry Bowl! Additionally, Maddy (Americorp VISTA) presented for Staff Senate and Engineering Department Heads. This valuable facetime built the groundwork for more involvement in Pack the Shelves as well as other Feed the Pack initiatives and support. Oh, and Feed the Pack turned 9 in November!!!

December 2021 - Around exams and the holidays, the name of the game is don't drown. In December, we managed to kick off our food demo videos as well as posting partnership highlights. We began our weekly food pickups from Food Lion. We stayed open with limited hours over winter break. We survived.




Feed the Pack Tabling at Stafford Commons this January

January 2022 - Happy New Year! Fun fact: Feed the Pack hosted a total of 9 food drives and pop-up pantries in January. This is the most (to my knowledge) in a month in our history! Maybe not super fun, but informative counts for something...

February 2022 - In February the University dropped mask requirements and we quickly followed and shifted our policies to masks encouraged. We also finished up our food drives with NC State Athletics and saw a huge spike in usage in the food pantry. In the shortest month of the year (February for my trivia buffs out there) Feed the Pack gave out over 12,700 pounds of food.



Feed the Pack Food Pantry
at [Academic and Student Affairs](#)

MAKE A GIFT   

\$30,097 Raised **256** Gifts

Final Day of Giving Donation Total for Feed the Pack

March 2022 - March was great for a lot of reasons, but when you receive over \$30,000 in donations in a day (NC State Day of Giving), it is hard to talk about much else. So we won't.

April 2022 - Spring Cleaning! Beyond an actual deep clean and stock of the food pantry (thank you Service Raleigh) we also said thank you to our wonderful Park CEI's Nick and Sami as they concluded their food demos. We also set up our 2022-23 Advisory Board as well as finishing job postings for our new Leadership Team.

May 2022 - We started the month with May showers; Keya Pothireddy (Outreach Coordinator) and Anna Gessner (Pantry Manager) transitioned off of the Leadership Team. While we were sad to see them go, we were equally ecstatic to have Jon Gallagher join our team as Pantry Manager, Ellie Duquaine as Outreach Coordinator, and Caroline Grace Barnhill as Volunteer Coordinator, a new position added to the team.

It was a fun year at Feed the Pack, filled with highs but also lows. While we were pleased with the growth of our community partnerships and the ability for our pantry to stay stocked and staff, we know in many ways we missed the mark.

We see this as a challenge to better serve our community and continue our fight against food insecurity in our NC State Community.

Future Goals

1. Centralize basic needs resources.

Feed the Pack is a part of a larger campus-wide initiative to reduce food and housing insecurity on state's campus. Programs such as Student Ombuds, PACK Essentials, More in My Basket, and Steps to Health all work to secure our student population with sustainable access to food and housing. While we are happy to be partnering with all of these wonderful organizations, there is so much potential to have these resources come together and work on addressing the root causes of basic needs insecurity. FTP would like to help instigate this centralization in the upcoming year.

2. Further engage the campus community.

COVID-19 has disrupted NC State in many ways and Feed the Pack is no exception. As we plan for the coming year, it is important that we further engage our community in ways to combat food insecurity on campus. Feed the Pack looks forward to deepening the Pack the Shelves program, hosting information sessions, collaborating with student organizations and forming new partnerships across NC State's multiple campuses in the coming year.

3. Increase cultural and nutritional items offered.

Feed the Pack serves a high number of International student patrons, a lot of whom have different food-centered traditions and preferences based on where they are from. Because of this, we want to ensure that the food items coming into the pantry are appropriate and relevant to the communities we serve. We believe that folks experiencing food insecurity should still be able to find joy and comfort in eating, and bringing in those highly requested cultural items is how our team can help make this possible.

4. Increase volunteer engagement in and outside of the pantry.

We could not do what we do without the generous work of our amazing volunteer base. With a combination of staff, faculty, and students, we get to engage with a wide range of individuals on campus. While we appreciate the time they spend in the pantry, our leadership team would love to create a sense of community amongst our volunteers. Our goal is to transform our volunteers into active citizens of the greater NC State and Raleigh communities, and deepen their relationships to service.

Financial Status

Month	Total Amount Donated
2021	
May	\$ 4,111
June	\$ 14,015
July	\$ 1,561
August	\$ 1,939
September	\$ 2,831
October	\$ 18,260
November	\$ 61,750
December	\$ 16,388
2022	
January	\$ 18,388
February	\$ 5,445
March	\$ 26,887
April	\$ 2,777

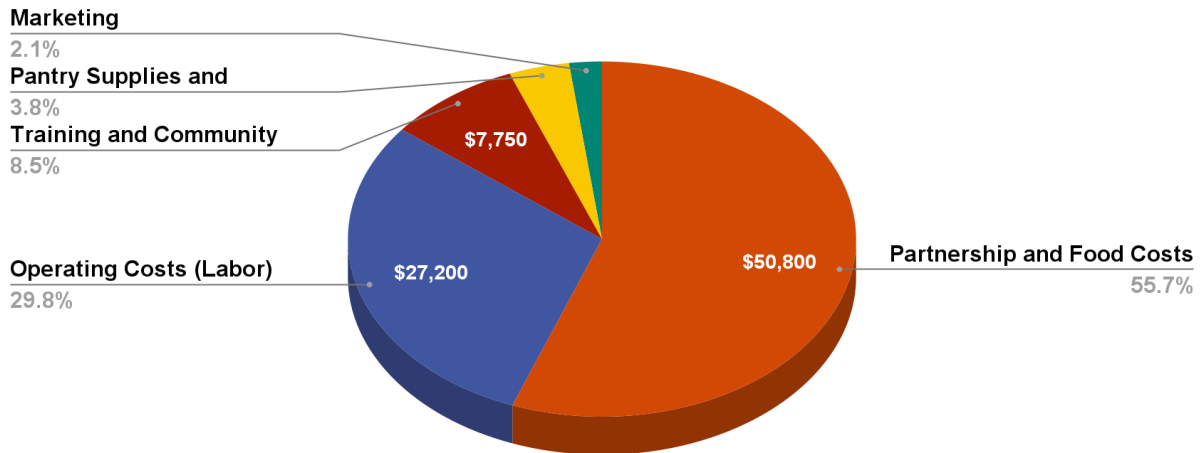
**Day of Giving
March 2022**
Feed the Pack raised \$ 30,097 on Day of Giving from 256 generous gifts.



In past years, Feed the Pack has not relied heavily on monetary donations. In 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there was an increase in patron visits, and we had to rely more heavily on monetary support. From May 2021 until April 2022, Feed the Pack spent \$44,500 to purchase 34,757 pounds of food and supplies for the pantry from US Foods. On average, Feed the Pack spends \$700 a week on fresh produce and dry goods, but also regularly purchases spices, cleaning supplies, and other items. We have also used monetary donations to repair our freezer and refrigerator units, and purchase additional produce from local vendors such as Farmer Foodshare. Without the financial support from our community, we would not be able to provide the variety of foods to meet the nutritional, cultural and dietary needs of our community.

Budget Information

2021-22 Budget Breakdown



Partnership and Food Costs: The majority of Feed the Pack’s spending is on partnership and food costs. While Feed the Pack still depends on significant community donations of food, much of this spending is dedicated to purchasing fresh produce and perishable items. Feed the Pack also has access to food items at reduced cost through the Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC and Inter-Faith Food Shuttle. For example, Feed the Pack can purchase 52 pounds of food from a \$10 donation.

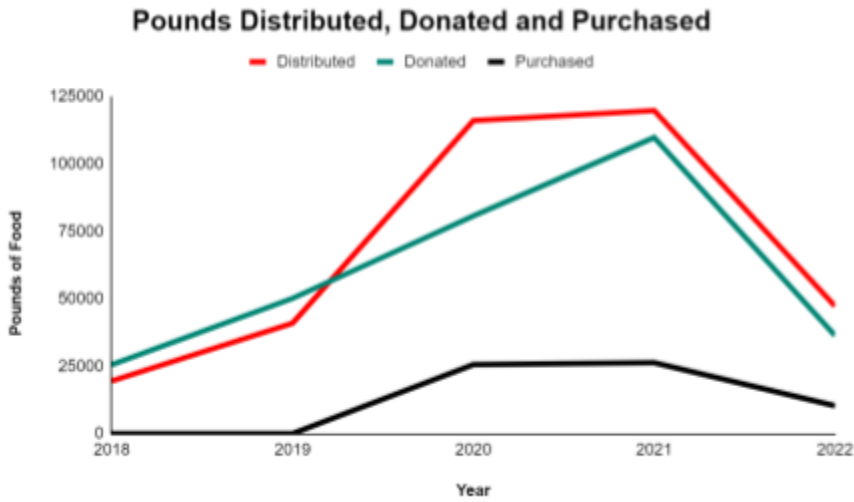
Operating Costs (Labor): The Feed the Pack Leadership team consists of three dedicated students that oversee the day to day operations of the pantry and dedicate much of their time to Feed the Pack. Aligned with the values of Student Leadership and Engagement, and in our efforts to make leadership accessible to all students the three Student Leadership Team positions are paid a competitive wage. Additionally, operating costs also cover the administrative fees and housing stipend associated with the AmeriCorps VISTA.

Training and Community Programming: Training and community programming costs cover the expenses associated with team development, food safety training, and attending the annual Universities Fighting World Hunger Summit. These expenses also include the cost of community programming such as cooking demonstrations, SNAP training, guest speakers, and educational programs, all part of our efforts to address food insecurity at NC State.

Pantry Supplies and Equipment: This includes new equipment, equipment repairs, and cleaning supplies to ensure the pantry is operating within a clean and safe environment.

Marketing: Marketing items are key to raising awareness of Feed the Pack and addressing food insecurity. These costs include updated marketing materials for the coming year, give-away items, and other efforts to recruit volunteers, donors, and destigmatize the use of the pantry among the NC State community.

Data and Statistics



125,406
pounds distributed in the 2021-22 academic year

8,423
visits in the academic year

\$44,500
spent to purchase items

34,757
pounds purchased in the academic year

109,136
pounds donated in the academic year

During the 2021-22 summer and academic year, Feed the Pack was open a total of 862 hours, and volunteers committed 1,205 hours of their time to operating the pantry and preparing for each week. The donation statistics above include food received from donors, partners, Pack the Shelves and the pantry's Amazon Wish List.

Feed the Pack saw a significant increase in visits with almost 44% of all pantry visits happening within the past academic year.



In previous years, visits have been roughly 50% students, 50% staff.

Partnerships



A Place at the Table

A Place at the Table is a pay-what-you-can cafe in downtown Raleigh. They provide community and healthy food for all, regardless of means. A Place at the Table provides Feed the Pack with tokens so our patrons can receive meals at the cafe.



Agroecology Education Farm

The Agroecology Education Farm provides Feed the Pack with bulk fresh produce. These items can range from cucumbers to butternut squash, allowing us to provide our patrons with a steady and local supply of produce.



Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina

The Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC is a nonprofit organization that serves 34 counties. Each week, Feed the Pack picks up food from the Food Bank. They provide us with bread, produce, snacks, and other items.





Food Lion

Food Lion is a grocery store that helps to support Feed the Pack. We currently do a weekly pickup from the Wycliff Food Lion where we receive produce, bakery, and dry shelf items. It's a lovely partnership that brings into variety to the pantry!



Inter-Faith Food Shuttle

Inter-Faith Food Shuttle is a nonprofit organization that recovers and distributes food across North Carolina. Inter-Faith Food Shuttle delivers products like shelf-stable milk and juice. We look forward to expanding our partnership in the coming year.

Pullen Memorial Baptist Church

Pullen Memorial Baptist Church is a local Baptist Church that supports Feed the Pack. Each week they donate surplus sandwiches and breakfast items from local Starbucks to Feed the Pack.



The Flower Shuttle

The Flower Shuttle recycles flowers to people living with sickness, terminal illness, poverty and disability who don't normally get flowers. They bring FTP beautiful bouquets every week that bring our patrons great joy!

Bread of Life

Bread of Life is an outreach program that connects with many organizations in Raleigh. Each week Feed the Pack picks up bread from their warehouse to keep our shelves stocked.

Special Thanks

Well, it has come to the point where we must say goodbye... but how can we say goodbye without giving a big thank you first! Feed the Pack would like to give extra thanks and praise to our wonderful and diligent volunteers that make our operations possible. This year, like last year, was a wild one with many unexpected twists and turns. Your perseverance allowed you to handle everything that was thrown at you and for that, we thank you.

We would also like to thank all of our wonderful partners listed above! While we don't have time to thank them all, it is right and important for us to highlight, underline, and bold the fact that our partners are *essential* to our mission of serving our NC State Community with dignity and respect. So, thank you.

Another year and another huge thank you to the Fraternity and Sorority Life for lending us their van. While we will hopefully have our own van to call home in 2022, we are endlessly grateful for the ability to borrow FSL's van this past year. Like those listed above, this was *essential* to our successful operation during the 2021-22 academic year.

Finally, we would like to thank our patrons for their continued feedback and perpetual patience with us as our operations shaped the uncertainties that we faced this year.



Advocacy

Hosting a Food Drive:

Food drives are an excellent way to help keep the shelves stocked at Feed the Pack. We ask that you register your food drive on our website, so the Student Leadership Team has information about ongoing food drives and can provide additional support during your drive. If you have any questions about hosting a food drive, please contact us at feedthepackoutreach@ncsu.edu.

Joining Pack the Shelves:

Pack the Shelves is a program where a department or college can host an ongoing food drive to stock a specific shelf in the pantry. Each month, that group will collect items for Feed the Pack. If your group is interested in joining this program, please contact us at feedthepackoutreach@ncsu.edu.

Add Pack Essentials to your Syllabus:

"For Food & Housing Insecurity:

Any student who faces challenges securing food and/or housing or has other financial challenges and believes this may affect their performance in this course is encouraged to notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so.

Alternatively, you can learn more about the Pack Essentials program and available resources by visiting <https://dasa.ncsu.edu/pack-essentials/>."

Submit to our Newsletter:

If your group is hosting an event related to food insecurity, you can submit your event to be featured in our monthly newsletter. This newsletter is sent out at the start of each month and you can submit at <https://forms.gle/SrmcTfC8x4TWi7ca9> or by emailing feedthepackmedia@ncsu.edu.

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