

FIGHTING FOOD INSECURITY AT MARQUETTE GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Marquette students are among the smartest in the world, but there is one thing too many of them do not know: where they are going to get their next meal.

A shocking 2018 study found that one-in-five Marquette students—most, commuter students without access to campus dining facilities—had experienced food insecurity during the school year. The educational, psychological and social ramifications of this are many and none of them good. In response, Marquette faculty, staff and students stepped up to *Be The Difference*, creating two programs focused on eliminating food insecurity on and off campus.

food in-se-cu-ri-ty

noun

the state of being without reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food.

“more than 800 million people live every day with hunger or food insecurity as their constant companion”

THE BACKPACK PROGRAM

The Marquette Backpack Program is a free and confidential service that provides groceries to any Marquette student who is having difficulty accessing affordable, nutritious food, as well as other essential household items such as shampoo, hand soap, home cleaners, laundry detergent and deodorant. Students need only fill out an intake form to use the program on a one-time or weekly basis. No student is turned away.

Backpack Program student volunteers purchase needed groceries based on a weekly menu and to supplement any food donations received. An emphasis is made on providing healthy snacks, fresh produce and protein.

Outcomes. Needs. Opportunities.

- 30 bags of food prepared by fellow students for students in need
- 2019: 20 students served ▶ 2020: 50 students served weekly!
- Donations helped double the students we serve!
- \$1,250 a week feeds 50 students
- \$25 feeds one student for a week

Impact in action: your generosity feeds their future

Your gift in any amount can make a tremendous difference in our ability to continue providing under privileged students the food and necessities they need to succeed.

MARQUETTE BACKPACK PROGRAM





Extending beyond campus to help address food scarcity in surrounding communities is the Marquette University Neighborhood Kitchen or MUNK. Launched in October 2019, MUNK seeks to reduce food waste and food insecurity by turning unserved and unused food from Marquette dining halls and events into meals for Milwaukee community members who need it most.



Sharing space with the Backpack Program in Mashuda Hall, MUNK has a full-service kitchen where longtime Marquette dining hall chef Sharon Hope, a.k.a. “Chef Sharon,” along with student volunteers, puts together delicious and nutritious meals from unused food recovered from across campus and stored in the MUNK freezers. Meals are then distributed to the Benedict Center, a local residential program for low-income women recovering from addiction and trauma, and the Backpack Program.

Outcomes. Needs. Opportunities.

- About 90 percent of each meal is recovered food; 10 percent are dry goods and canned products purchased or collected through campus food drives.
- During campus shut-down due to COVID, MUNK began turning about 3,000 pounds of recovered food into frozen dinners for 25 students still on campus and in need of assistance through the Backpack Program.
- With the return of students this fall, MUNK will continue supplementing the Backpack Program as well as resume serving the Benedict Center on a weekly basis.
- Additionally, Program Coordinator, Christine Little, hopes to establish more partnerships and a larger team of student volunteers to increase MUNK’s capacity to mitigate food insecurity throughout the community.



Sharon Hope, lead volunteer chef for Marquette University Neighborhood Kitchen, has mastered the art of repurposing food to create delicious, nutritious meals.

“I may not be able to give the community money,” says Sharon, “but I can give my time. Sharing food is one of the greatest joys of my life.”

Your gift in any amount can increase the Marquette University Neighborhood Kitchen’s ability to purchase necessary food items and supplies, cover costs related to meal delivery and fund program-awareness efforts.

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