



JP'S MARKET: ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITY ON OUR CAMPUS

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Our Campus

- ▶ University of Houston-Victoria
 - ▶ Student enrollment - 4,352
 - ▶ First generation college students - 51% of student population
 - ▶ Hispanic serving institution - 40% of student population



Addressing Food Insecurity

- ▶ Definition of food insecurity
 - ▶ Food insecurity, as defined by the United States Department of Agriculture (2017), is inconsistent access to adequate food due to lack of money and other resources.
- ▶ Forty-eight percent of students experience food insecurity at some point during their college career.¹
- ▶ Of those who reported food insecurity, fifty-five percent said, “that food insecurity compromised their ability to attend classes and four percent stated they had to forgo classes for one or more semesters.”²

1. (Dubick, Matthews & Cady, 2016)
2. (Silvia, 2015)



Addressing Food Insecurity

- ▶ Educational impact of food insecurity
- ▶ Wisconsin HOPE Lab Study¹

TABLE 8: EDUCATIONAL IMPACT OF FOOD AND HOUSING INSECURITY ON FOOD INSECURE STUDENTS, LAST 12 MONTHS

	YES
Have hunger or housing problems had an impact on your education?	32%
HAVE HUNGER OR HOUSING PROBLEMS CAUSED YOU TO DO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING?*	
Done any of the following	86%
Miss a class	53%
Miss a study session	54%
Miss a club meeting	37%
Opt not to join an extracurricular activity	55%
Not buy a required textbook	55%
Drop a class	25%
Not perform as well in your academics as you otherwise could have	81%

**Asked only of students who responded "yes" to the previous question about educational impact.*

1. (Dubick, Matthews & Cady, 2016)



Addressing Food Insecurity

- ▶ In their study, Dubick, Matthews & Cady, found that 25% of Hispanic students fell into the lowest level of food security.¹
- ▶ “More than half of all first-generation students (56 percent) were food insecure, compared to 45 percent of students who had at least one parent who attended college.”¹

1. (Dubick, Matthews & Cady, 2016)



What We Did

- ▶ **JP's Market** is a free and anonymous resource to help eliminate food insecurity on our campus. It is open to all currently enrolled students at The University of Houston-Victoria (UHV), as well as Victoria College (VC).
- ▶ The Market gives students access to food and hygiene products once a week, with no limit on how many times they can return. We offer a variety of foods to ensure students can focus on academics, and not on where they are getting their next meal.
- ▶ It includes a **Career Closet** in which current students can rent professional clothing at no cost to them. Professional clothing items available include blazers, suits, blouses, collared shirts, pants, skirts and dress coats. Non-professional clothing items are also available inside of the Career Closet, without having to be returned.
- ▶ Our **Community Garden** is approximately 700 square feet of university land devoted to growing produce and educating campus and community members about healthy living, sustainability, gardening, and food production. The produce grown from the Community Garden is contributed back to JP's Market.



How We Did It

- ▶ Began project in summer of 2017, roughly one year ago.
- ▶ Phase 1: Created Partnerships
 - ▶ 1. Acquired a space from the University College
 - ▶ 2. Researched how other schools created a food pantry
 - ▶ 3. Contacted local food bank, Food Bank of the Golden Crescent
 - ▶ 4. Became an agent of the food bank and essentially fell under their umbrella in order to receive food from them
 - ▶ 5. Contacted community for support (local businesses)
 - ▶ Sponsorships
 - ▶ Material donations
 - ▶ Community grant
 - ▶ 6. Contacted UHV and VC faculty and staff members for monetary donations



How We Did It

- ▶ Phase 2: Created the Space and Logistics of JP's Market
 - ▶ 1. Purchased items and set up the space (shelving, hanging racks, storage containers, refrigerators, desk, computer, etc.)
 - ▶ 2. Planned logistics of the market and career closet
 - ▶ What students could take: 10 food items, 2 non-food items, 3-5 non-professional items (donated t-shirts, clothes, etc.) from the career closet
 - ▶ How often: Fridays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. or by appointment
 - ▶ Check out system: Count and weigh out items which is documented weekly for the Food Bank



How We Did It

- ▶ Phase 3: Application Process for Students
 - ▶ Paperwork required by Food Bank to determine financial eligibility (1 household member = under \$24,000 annually)
 - ▶ Check student ID to make sure they are enrolled
 - ▶ Student receives a numbered JP's Market card to bring back every time they visit
 - ▶ Receive a reusable bag - **SUSTAINABILITY FOR THE WIN!**



How We Did It

- ▶ Phase 4: Final Preparations
 - ▶ Following USDA Health and Safety standards (Food Handler Certification, pest control contract to spray every 2 weeks, logging refrigerator and freezer temperatures)
 - ▶ Stocked shelves, bins, etc.
 - ▶ LOTS of organizing!
 - ▶ Inspection by the Food Bank of the Golden Crescent





Food Pantry Data

Fall 2017

Total Users = 346

Food Distributed = 5,516 pounds

Items Distributed = 10,386

Spring 2018

Total Users = 433

Food Distributed = 4,644 pounds

Items Distributed = 10,237

2017-2018 Academic Year

Total Users = 433

Food Distributed = 10,160 pounds

Items Distributed = 20,623



User Data

Total Registered Users

Individuals

- ▶ 418 - UHV
- ▶ 15 - VC

We average anywhere from 100-150 students that utilize the pantry each week!



Donor Data

Monetary Donations = \$8,644

Faculty/Staff - 63 individuals

Students/Community Members - 124 individuals

Monthly Donations From Faculty/Staff = \$450

Estimated Donations Received On Giving Tuesday = \$1,137

Sponsoring Business - New Refrigerator and \$1000

Clothing Donations = 750 items

Faculty/Staff - 30 individuals

Students/Community Members - 45 individuals

Total Grants = \$5,000

Community Grant







Successes and Obstacles

Successes

- ▶ Students users = 433
- ▶ Food/items distributed = 20,623
- ▶ Supporters and donors
- ▶ Student volunteers
- ▶ Student testimonials
 - ▶ “I bought a textbook instead of having to buy food.”
 - ▶ “At one point this semester I did not have money for food. JP’s Market singlehandedly fed me for two weeks.”

Obstacles

- ▶ Food Bank - Additional paperwork, financial requirements, etc.
- ▶ Community Garden
- ▶ Time commitment



Average Work Week

What does it take to operate JP's Market?

Monday: 2 hours

- ▶ Cleaning up from the previous week and looking through expiration dates on food.

Tuesday: 3 hours

- ▶ Sorting, folding, and cleaning the Career Closet.

Wednesday: 8 hours

- ▶ Delivery Day - Unpacking food, sorting food, and checking expiration dates.

Thursday: 2 hours

- ▶ Making sure all supplies are ready for the following day and making new user cards.

Friday: 8 hours

- ▶ Preparing to open the pantry, working the pantry, cleaning up after closing, and ordering food for the next week.

Total: 23 hours per week



Future Growth

- ▶ Community Garden
 - ▶ Shed and tools
 - ▶ Preparing garden beds (soil, compost, etc.)
 - ▶ Planting (fruits, vegetables, herbs and trees)
- ▶ JP's Market Pop-Up Markets
- ▶ Campus Educational Classes/Trainings
- ▶ Reaching Victoria College Population
- ▶ Grant Applications
 - ▶ Trips to regional farms and farmers markets
 - ▶ Expanding the Community Garden and grounds



Testimonials

- ▶ “JP’s Market has saved me a lot of money. It is the best thing ever! Especially for people who have suffered from Harvey.”
- ▶ “JP’s Market has been a big help throughout my first semester here. I would like to thank them for everything and hope they continue and expand the market.”
- ▶ “JP’s Market has been so great to me and this campus! It offers a variety of food for students who are in need. JP’s Market is a blessing.”
- ▶ “The snacks that I get help fuel my gaming.”
- ▶ “It has meant a lot for me. It has helped me out with groceries. I was also able to borrow a blazer to wear to an interview, and I got the job! I really appreciate what you all do.”
- ▶ “Many recent graduates of UHV are amazed by JP’s Market. They see it as I do, something that betters the lives of on and off campus students. It is something they wished they had when going to UHV.”



QUESTIONS?



References

- ▶ Definitions of Food Security. (2017, October). Retrieved from <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/definitions-of-food-security.aspx>
- ▶ Dubick, J., Mathews, B., & Cady, C. (2016, October). Hunger On Campus. Retrieved from http://studentsagainsthunger.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Hunger_On_Campus.pdf.
- ▶ Silva, M. et al. (2015). The relationship between food security, housing stability, and school performance among college students in an urban university. *Journal of College Student Retention: Research, Theory & Practice*. doi:10.1177/1521025115621918