

Origin of the Food Pantry

In 2013, students from the school of social work began the food pantry, which would later become Feed My Sheep, to combat food insecurity on the University's campus. Pioneers of this project left a trail for social work interns to follow and engaged with the larger community of Ooltewah and Collegedale in order to gather outside resources. Though the program has changed hands over time, the hands of Christ have remained a constant force in the delivery of services.

Food Insecurity on this campus

Over 8% of students on this campus suffer from moderate to severe food insecurity

Highest percentages for food insecurity were found among Hispanic/Latino, followed by Asian & African American. The highest percentage of Food insecurity with hunger, severe was for Hispanic/Latino)

Different effects of food insecurity

1. Worries that food would run out before getting money
2. The food they had didn't last enough with no more money to buy additional food
3. These individuals could not afford to buy balanced meals

Purpose

The command to "Feed My Sheep" resonated with early Christians and they began the work of stewardship. Two-thousand years later, the call to action remains potent and the center of Southern food pantry. With eagerness and humility, Feed My Sheep hopes to erase the stigma behind hunger and serve students who are in need of food assistance.

Location

Pantry is located in the Village Market plaza

Population that it serves

The pantry is dedicated to serving both traditional and non-traditional students that do not have the adequate resources to gain a substantial amount of food to get them through the day.

Relevant Statistics

According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), between 14-72% of students on university and college campuses across America experience some form of food insecurity. Food insecurity is organized into four categories: Food Secure, Food Insecure without Hunger, Food Insecure with Hunger: Moderate, Food Insecure with Hunger: Severe. Using this rubric, Southern measured hunger on campus:

Percentages of respondents in each Food Security Status level

Food Security Status level				
		Frequency (# of respondents)	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Food Secure	440	70.0	70.0
	Food Insecure without Hunger	139	22.1	22.1
	Food Insecure with Hunger, Moderate	40	6.4	8.0
	Food Insecure with Hunger, Severe	10	1.6	
	Total # of respondents (N)	629	100.0	*Percentages do not add up to 100 due to rounding

Students Most Affected By Hunger

Though the pantry aims to serve all students, there is evidence that a highlights a population of students who require greater support. Of those are risk for food insecurity with or without hunger, it was found that students who lived alone or with a roommate were most likely to be affected by food insecurity. Following closely were international students,