



THE COLLABORATIVE FOR THE COMMON GOOD

AT WINGATE UNIVERSITY

BULLDOG BONE APPÉTIT

Planning and Impact of the 2020-2021
Winter Break Food and Fellowship Program

WINGATE UNIVERSITY
WINGATE, NORTH CAROLINA
220 N CAMDEN RD, WINGATE, NC 28174

Introduction:

The CCG collaborated with employees from the university, local nonprofit organizations, and local churches to provide food for students who were staying on campus over winter break. We sent a survey to students who were approved by residential living to stay on campus, and we found that there was a need for food distribution over the break. Since the dining hall and restaurants around campus were closed over the break, food options were very limited, especially for students without reliable transportation. Every Tuesday over winter break, we served over 20 students. Our HungerCorps Vista texted students beforehand to ensure that they knew when and where to grab food. The food available rotated each week between boxes of nonperishable food, snacks, and homemade meals. The food boxes were donated by Common Heart, a local nonprofit. Snacks were donated by employees and students of the university as well as Heart for Monroe, another local nonprofit. Homemade meals were donated by employees of the university and members of the Community Church of Monroe. The initiative was a great success!

Planning:

✓ Access to list of students
✓ Marketing call for donations
✓ Shared google spreadsheet for donations
✓ Contact community partners
✓ Send email and text reminders to students
✓ Set up the space in a welcoming way
✓ Keep everyone Covid-safe
✓ Send a survey to measure impact



The Office of Residential Living on campus had compiled a list of students who were approved to stay on campus over Winter Break. We reached out to the Dean of Campus life, Dr. Michael Reynolds, who shared the list with us. Once we had the contact information for the students, we sent them a survey to measure their concern with food security over the break. Since the dining hall and other restaurants on campus would be closed during the break, about half of the

students who responded to our survey were either somewhat concerned or extremely concerned about their food security over the break. According to the survey, many of those students did not have reliable transportation, and a few of them did not have access to kitchens or cooking utensils. The survey also asked students what types of foods they would be interested in receiving, and the data that we collected educated our decisions to purchase nonperishable items, transportable snacks, fresh fruits and vegetables, and sets of pots, pans, and cooking utensils.



We chose to host our food distribution events on Tuesdays so that would provide food for the week, but also so that donations could be brought in on Mondays. The window of time for students to come by and pick up the food was from 12-6pm, and we kept the window wide so that students with different availability could come by.

A close friend of the CCG, Mary Coon, had heard that

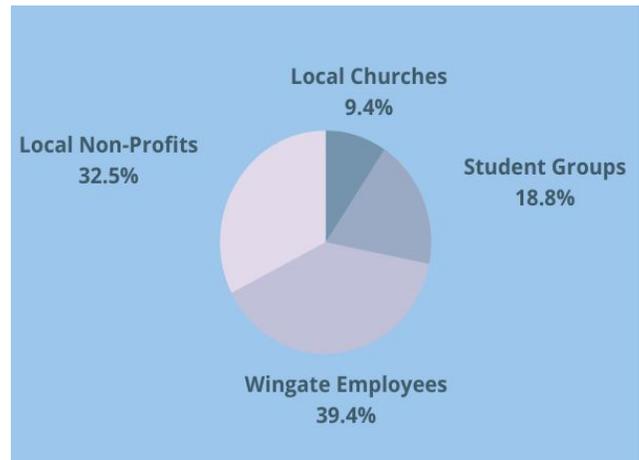
University employees were talking about ways to support students over break. She reached out to her network in order to spread the word employees that we were putting together a food distribution initiative. Using a Google Doc, employees signed up for which days they could donate and included what food they would bring and how many students it would serve. This made it easy for folks to sign up for donations, and helped us keep track of those who donated. Joan Shay, another close friend of the CCG, organized a donation campaign that provided international students with \$25 gift cards to Aldi, a local grocery store with a diverse availability of food and produce. This was especially helpful for international students who were unable to

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
2	Tuesday, December 22nd			Items our Bulldogs need:	Fresh Fruit	Gluten-Free Options	
3					Fresh Vegetables	Vegetarian Options	
4	Drop-off at the CCG (2nd floor, Wingate Baptist Church) anytime between 9am and 3pm M-F				Tasty Snacks/Treats	Dairy-Free Options	
5							
6	If you need to arrange a different drop-off day or time, please email Caroline Wisse Gonzales (c.wisse@wingate.edu)					(pre packed in single servings if possible)	
7							
9	Name	Email	Phone Number	What are you bringing?	How many will it feed?	Gluten-free?	Vegetarian?
10	Carrie Hoefferle	choeffer@wingate.edu	7048042658	Cookies/bars	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	James Hastings	jhastings@wingate.edu	9803139647	Apples, Pears, and Citrus		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Mary Coon	m.coon@wingate.edu	7042079713	Microwave popcorn		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	Ann Hancock	a.hancock@wingate.edu	9107939124	various chips cookies granola bars		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	David Weil	d.weil@wingate.edu	706-207-2951	Fruits and Vegetables (Individual x 30)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
15						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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go back home over the break because they could find some of their favorite foods at Aldi. She was able to donate 12 of those gift cards to our initiative, as well.

We rotated each week between providing snack food, food boxes with nonperishable items, and homemade meals. The snacks were donated by Wingate University Employees, student groups, and a local nonprofit called Heart for Monroe, the food boxes were donated by a local nonprofit organization called Common Heart, and the homemade meals were prepared and donated by Wingate University employees and members of Community Church of Monroe.

Our events were hosted in the CCG space and in the Fellowship Hall of Wingate Baptist Church. We set up our snacks in the CCG's biggest room and had reusable bags available for students to fill with the snacks of their choice. The food boxes and homemade meals were distributed in the Fellowship Hall, where there was a little bit more room for everything to be laid out. The Fellowship Hall also has a refrigerator that we used to store the homemade meals.



Each student and volunteer wore a mask for the entirety of the event. During snack days, students used hand sanitizer before picking out their snacks. On homemade meal days, volunteers wore gloves and changed them between students while distributing food. There were also different serving utensils for every dish so that there was no cross contamination. Everyone also maintained a safe social distance of at least 6 ft.

Every Monday before food distribution days, an email reminder went out to all of the students who answered our survey, whether they had come to any event in the past or not. On the day of food distribution, students who had come to previous food distribution days received a text message reminder. If students had scheduling conflicts, they were able to make other arrangements to pick up food by texting with our NC Campus Compact HungerCorps Vista. The text messages helped students feel important and let them know that we cared about each of them uniquely and individually. Our Vista was able to make personal connections with the students that made them feel comfortable in the space. A few students said that they would love to get involved in the CCG or help out with volunteer events that we have in the future.



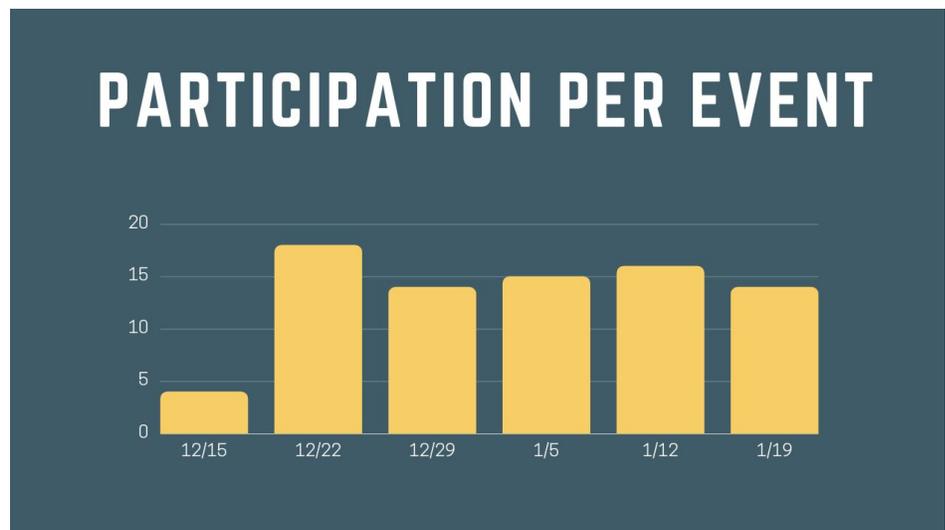
In order to set up the events, our Vista worked with our Administrative Assistant, Caroline Wisse Gonzales to sanitize surfaces and arrange the food in a way that made it accessible to the students. Our Leadership Intern, Adden Howard, also assisted with set-up, distribution, and take-down during the events.



Impact:

Even before the final day of our event, we could see the impact on our students and campus. Wingate University employees joined forces to donate \$750 towards the program. An additional \$300 was donated in the form of grocery store gift cards in increments of \$25, which we distributed to Wingate Students who indicated that they were in need of fresh fruits and

vegetables over the break. Although staple foods are important, students that were in need of often under-provided items were able to purchase what they most needed. To increase student's access to fresh made meals (rather than relying solely on pre-packaged or microwavable meals throughout the month) we were able to provide multiple meal blocks to the on-campus dining hall, and also used the funds to purchase 4 cooking sets which were available for students to borrow throughout the break.



Overall, we were able to provide 160 meals for 28 different students. In the anonymous survey we conducted, 100% of students reported that the program was "Extremely Helpful". In their own words, this is what students had to say about their experience:

"I just want to say a big thank you to everyone who cooked and donated snacks. This made the Christmas break so much better because it gave us something to look forward to."

"I would like to thank everyone that took part. The food has helped me live on campus and be healthier than I would have been if I did not receive the food. So a special thanks from me to everyone who cooked, delivered, handed out, and or supplied the food."

"I had to stay on campus during winter break so I'm really appreciative for all your help"

Several of these students have already given back to the community, showing up to volunteer with a CCG event in February that donates school supplies to local teachers. Through our program our campus community didn't just provide meals, but also fostered a sense of community and civic engagement through our fellowship with the students.

Overall, the Winter Break Food Distribution, otherwise known as "Bone-Appetit," was a huge success. We look forward to conducting similar initiatives during Spring, Fall, Summer, and Winter Breaks in the future!