



# Giving Back through Grocery Give & Grab (G3)

Kristianna Bowles | she/her/hers  
Sustainability Program Coordinator  
Administrative Center for  
Sustainability & Energy Management  
(ACSEM)  
Rice University

Dr. Carol Binzer | she/her/hers  
Director of Administrative & Support  
Services  
Department of Residence Life  
Texas A&M University

# Session Outcomes



TEXAS A&M  
UNIVERSITY

1. Attendees will be able to understand the basic steps to creating their own G3 program
  2. Attendees will be able to identify campus stakeholders that can assist with launching their own G3 program
  3. Attendees will be able to identify potential collection/distribution locations for G3 pantries on their campus
-

# History



- Move-out waste
  - Ongoing program for Residence Life (durable goods)
    - Food often being brought to Campus Drop Offs
  - Campus Master Plan assigns expansion to ResLife
- Student Experience in the Research University (SERU) survey
  - Food insecurity for on-campus residents more of an issue than presumed, even with mandatory meal plans



# Birth of G3



TEXAS A&M  
UNIVERSITY

- Grocery Give & Grab (G3)
  - How to create a channel for donations
  - Donate unopened, unexpired, nonperishable foods
    - Others take what they need, when they need it
  - To address food insecurity among residents
- Creation steps
  - Bins in 12 locations (Aggie Magic #)
    - Community Learning Centers (Study Spectacular) & 24/7 Info Desks
    - Labelled large bins with rollers
  - Risk Management Issues (let's not facilitate issues)
    - monitoring of donated goods for open, expired, perishable
    - who is "in charge"
    - what about other donation 'boxes' others put out to collect goods

## GROCERY GIVE & GRAB



**Please help yourself!**  
**But first check...**

- packaging is properly sealed
- expiration date
- allergens, if applicable

**Donated food items must be:**

- unopened
- unexpired
- non-perishable

### SUGGESTED ITEMS

Protein Source  
Crockery  
Protein/Pace  
Canned meat or fish  
Cereal  
Breakfast bars  
Snacks  
Canned fruit  
Canned soups  
Candy/Candy

\*Situations not meeting these requirements will be disposed

 Residence Life  
DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

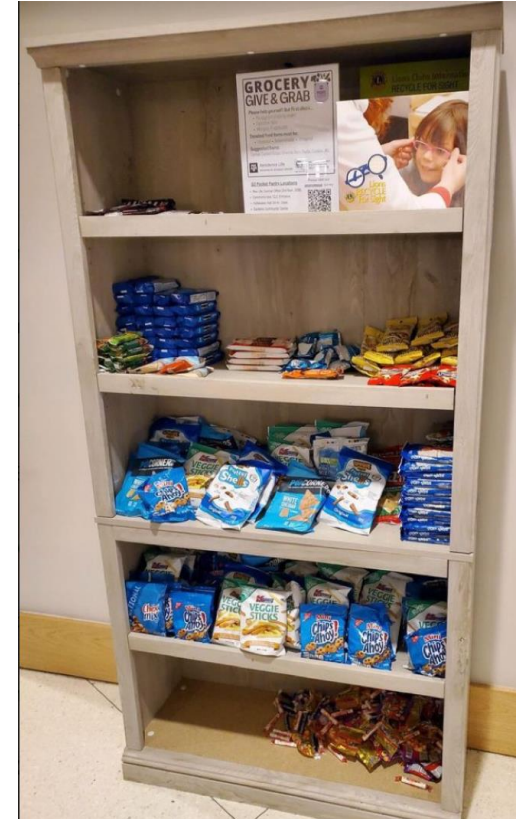


# Permanent Expansion



TEXAS A&M  
UNIVERSITY

- Tie in to the 12th Can's Pocket Pantries program
- Build beyond 'large bins with rollers'
  - Aggie Green Fund Grant provides bookcases
  - 5 Neighborhood locations across ResLife
- Issue is providing food and diverting landfill waste
  - how much is enough
  - convenience and free v. food insecurity



# Challenges



TEXAS A&M  
UNIVERSITY

- Keeping shelves stocked (convenience v. assistance)
  - infrastructure— one of largest housing operations in nation
  - resources—source of income is rent funding
  - potential donor opportunities –Aggie Moms
- Stakeholder issues
  - 12th Can and Student Assistant Services
  - serving residents or staff as well



# Small-Group Brainstorm Session



# Brainstorming Session



TEXAS A&M  
UNIVERSITY

1. Intros & Institutions
2. Prompt Questions
  - a. What is the prevalence of food insecurity on your campus or in your surrounding community?
  - b. What support or resources are already available to your students? Would you be able to partner with them?
  - c. Are there concerns about faculty/staff as well?
  - d. What location(s) would make the most sense for a G3 program?
  - e. What risk management concerns would your department/institution have (i.e. PR problems, allergen concerns, unacceptable donations, etc.)?
  - f. Does your campus have traditions/slogans you can incorporate into marketing?



- Marketing
  - Tie into your campus culture/traditions
  - Assessment data for level of food insecurity to determine need
  - Talk with Dining Services to understand dining plans
- Building Coalitions
  - Determine potential campus partners early
  - Inspire donations and determine donation streams
    - Reaching out to alumni and parent/guardian groups for support
- Infrastructure
  - Determine locations based on traffic, visibility, and accessibility
    - Fine line between being accessible and supportive
  - Determine whether individuals need to sign-up for food and/or create avenue to receive additional support
- Spreading sustainability and security to other HEIs

# G3 Moving Forward



TEXAS A&M  
UNIVERSITY

- Texas A&M Foundation account creation for monetary donations
- Donations coming from internal and external sources
  - What if people donate food items—
    - storage, distribution, monitoring
  - What if people donate money—
    - who shops, stocks, tax-exempt
- Need an Assessment Strategy
  - fulfilling needs to meet food insecurity (intermittent, not chronic)

# Contact Information



TEXAS A&M  
UNIVERSITY

Kristianna Bowles

[kristianna.bowles@rice.edu](mailto:kristianna.bowles@rice.edu)

Office: 713-348-3141

Suite 420

Cambridge Office Building

Rice University



@SustainableRice

Dr. Carol Binzer

[carolb@reslife.tamu.edu](mailto:carolb@reslife.tamu.edu)

Office: 979-862-3158

Res Life Central Office

3rd Floor - Student Services Building

Texas A&M University



@AggiesGoingGreen

1. How much does it cost to start-up a G3 program?
  - a. On A Budget - \$100 → Pilot to snowball
  - b. With Support (donations, grants, etc.) - \$3,500
2. How much does it cost to operate?
  - a. \$10,000/semester
3. Managing expectations
4. Keeping focus on sustainability

\*Price will depend on institution size and number of collection points