

The Campus Kitchen at Gettysburg College

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The Campus Kitchen at Gettysburg College is part of a national network of student-run kitchens that take leftover unused portions of food from the Dining hall at Gettysburg College, local restaurants, stores, and farms and repackage it into meals that are distributed to agencies in the community. The project reduces food waste, supplies meals to people who need them, and provides leadership and volunteer opportunities for students and community members.

The Campus Kitchen provides a weekly meal for families working out of poverty with the Adams County Circles Initiative. Providing this meal not only saves the families from cooking one night a week, but each year it also saves the Circles Initiative at least \$6000, which is then used towards services for families including loan funds, resources, and education. The Campus Kitchen is also sponsoring a Healthy Cooking on a Budget and Exercise program with the Circles Initiative this spring.

The Adams County Office for Aging has also been

working with the Campus Kitchen to provide biweekly dinners, complete with entertainment, at the Gettysburg Senior Center. This spring, a grant from DOROT USA is funding cooking demonstrations by local chefs and other programs about healthy eating for diabetics and windowsill gardening. These dinners encourage seniors to socialize with each other and with college volunteers while enjoying a meal together.

Melissa Arsenie, Gettysburg College class of 2010 and Campus Kitchens Program Coordinator, enjoys her sustained involvement with the program. "Our continued efforts bridge gaps between social groups in Gettysburg. [Together we share] good meals prepared with sustainability in mind. Socially, economically, and with special regard to community building, everyone wins," she says.

The Campus Kitchen has also recently begun providing supplementary meals for the Meal on Wheels program and for a number of families referred by the Lincoln Intermediate Unit. A monthly meal is provided for the

YWCA Single Mother Support Group and food for special events is provided for Survivors, Inc.

The Adams County Farmers' Market Association also partners with the Campus Kitchen to donate leftover unsold produce. From August to January, this initiative, in conjunction with several gleaning trips (gleaning is when produce left in the field after harvest is gathered), a literal ton of surplus produce that would have otherwise gone to waste was rescued and utilized by the

Campus Kitchen or distributed to individuals in need.

This season, the Campus Kitchen and the Adams County Farmers' Market Association are sponsoring a "Share a Row" program where home gardeners and farmers alike are invited to plant an extra row of whatever it is they grow to donate to the Campus Kitchen and local food pantries. Donations can be dropped off all season long beginning June 12 at the Gettysburg Farmers' Market on the Square (Saturdays, 7am-

12pm), New Oxford Farmers' Market on the Square (Saturdays, 8am-12pm), or the Gettysburg Village Outlets Farmers' Market (Fridays, 9am-2pm).

The Campus Kitchen is always in need of food donations and volunteers. You can find out more or sign up to volunteer at www.gettysburg.edu/campuskitchen or by calling 337-6490.



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