



2019-2020 Gamecock Pantry Annual Report

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 **Gamecock Pantry**
University of South Carolina

 **Leadership and
Service Center**
University of South Carolina

Gamecock Pantry

The Gamecock Pantry provides access to food and toiletries in a free and confidential way to members of the Carolina community while creating awareness about food insecurity at Carolina. Any current student, faculty, or staff with a valid CarolinaCard can access the Gamecock Pantry. The Pantry provides fresh food, non-perishables, and toiletries.

for students,
by students



Volunteer Impact

The Gamecock Pantry Annual Report represents the work done on the University of South Carolina's campus to help increase food insecurity awareness and alleviate food insecurity. The data and initiatives shared in this report show the dedication of UofSC's student volunteers, the generosity of the Carolina and Columbia community, and the overwhelming impact made to enhance the community's overall wellbeing.

Estimate based on 2019 value of national volunteer time at \$25.43 per hour (<http://pointsoflight.org/tools/volunteercalculator>), as determined by the Independent Sector. Report statistics based on data collected by the Leadership and Service Center for the period of July 1, 2019 through May 31, 2020).



54
pantry volunteers



959
service hours



\$24,387.37
economic impact

Summer 2019



127
visits



64
unique customers

Fall 2019



683
visits



168
unique customers

Spring 2020*



731
visits



470
unique customers

*Data collected through March 2020 before university closure due to COVID-19

The Gamecock Pantry is a student-led initiative managed by a student Executive Board. The Pantry would not run without the work of these six dedicated student leaders.



Nancy Jones, Executive Director

International Business & Economics major • Decatur, GA

“Growing up, my family and I frequently worked with our church to cook and serve meals at a local women’s and children’s shelter, so food insecurity is an issue that is very close to my heart. It’s also one that touches every part of the lives of the people it affects; it’s hard to focus on work or school or anything of the sort when you don’t have enough to eat. I got involved with the Gamecock Pantry for those very reasons. I knew GP was doing extraordinarily important work supporting our Gamecock community and I wanted to be a part of continuing and expanding that mission as much as possible.”



Quinlan Mewborne, Director of Outreach & Education

Philosophy & Neuroscience major, Chinese minor • Tallahassee, FL

“I love getting to share the mission of the pantry! Food insecurity is an issue that so many Gamecocks feel passionately about, and I am so proud to be a member of a collegiate community that seeks to eliminate food insecurity on our campus.” I knew GP was doing extraordinarily important work supporting our Gamecock community and I wanted to be a part of continuing and expanding that mission as much as possible.”



Victoria Kucharski, Director of Operations & Logistics

International Business & Accounting major • Crystal Lake, IL

“During the last year, the biggest lesson I learned while serving with the Gamecock Pantry was the impact of food insecurity and how it differs so much from the stereotype; someone doesn’t have to be homeless to be food insecure. Making an impact on campus taught me the importance of giving back and I hope to take these lessons to help my communities even more in the future.”



Averrey Jencka, Co-Director of Communications, Marketing, & Media

Advertising & Graphic Design major • Pittsburgh, PA

“I chose to get involved with the Gamecock Pantry first semester of my freshman year as a Pantry Pal volunteer because I have always had a passion for helping those who may need assistance with food, which is such a vital component of anyone’s success, especially academics. Back home, I used to volunteer at Meals on Wheels on the weekends, and it also happens to be the organization that my sorority partners with here in Columbia! So, getting involved with the Gamecock Pantry was an easy choice for me to make.”



Marvin Mitchell, Co-Director of Communications, Marketing, & Media

Marketing & Management major • Saint Matthews, SC

“My favorite part about working in the Gamecock Pantry is just seeing all the different people from the Gamecock Community coming in. Most of the time any student or faculty entered into the GP they had never heard about it before. Seeing the joy and amazement on their faces when they hear about how long the Pantry has been available and seeing all of the great foods that we have warms my heart. Knowing that working in the Pantry is helping someone have a meal or grab a snack that they may not have gotten is truly my favorite part!”



Emilie Brady, Volunteer & Donations Coordinator

Biomedical Engineering major • Baltimore, MD

“One thing that I learned this year is that so many more people use our resources than it seems! I loved getting to interact with our clients and help them through difficult times.”

Yearly Highlights

The 2019-2020 academic year brought new and exciting initiatives to the Gamecock Pantry.

Pantry Facelift

At the beginning of the Fall 2019 semester, University President Bob Caslen worked with Carolina students on a mini makeover for the Gamecock Pantry that included new garnet wall paint, HVAC repair, and general organization of the Pantry.

Dodie Donations

In Fall 2019, the Gamecock Pantry started a partnership with the Dodie Anderson Academic Enrichment Center. Through this partnership, surplus ready-made, healthy, grab-and-go options were donated to the Pantry from the dining halls in the Dodie and 650 Lincoln.

Exam Care Packages

Over 75 final exam care packages were donated to the Gamecock Pantry by Gamecock Parents from across the country. Care packages were filled with delicious snacks and treats to get students through long exam study sessions.

Free Weekly Lunch

In Spring 2020, a long-awaited program came to fruition with a partnership between the Gamecock Pantry, Carolina Food Co., Food Recovery Network, and the Methodist Student Network. Food from dining halls on campus was rescued and served as a free lunch on Thursdays to any Carolina community member in need.

“The partnership between our groups addresses several issues at the same time – quieting hunger pangs and providing a sense of support and connection and redirecting surplus food. The food is wonderful but feeling cared for and being served with a smile is enlivening too. After all, you ‘cannot live by bread alone.’”

– Tom Wall, United Methodist Campus Minister

COVID-19 Response

After the mid-March university closure due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Gamecock Pantry quickly switched gears to offer emergency food kits to South Carolina community members who needed food assistance. Food kits contained staple Pantry items and could be picked up at the Russell House University Union. The Gamecock Pantry’s COVID-19 response was featured nationally by Swipe Out Hunger.



Gamecock Pantry Volunteer Award Winners



Nancy Jones

Lauren E. Brubaker Carolinian Award Presented by the Registered Religious Workers Council

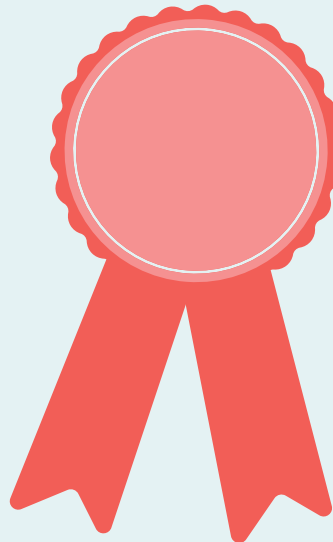
Serving as the Executive Director of the Gamecock Pantry since April 2019, Nancy empowers and lifts up others. Working to serve food insecure students and staff, she helped launch a collaborative effort between Gamecock Pantry, Food Recovery Network, Carolina Food Co. and the Methodist Student Network to “rescue” leftover food from campus dining and offer a weekly free meal to Gamecocks facing food insecurity. She is also part of the Civic Leadership Action Team where she tries to build bridges across partisan gaps among students while promoting civic engagement and political involvement in a non-partisan manner. Through this work, Nancy shows that she is not only able to respect but also to welcome differing points of view for the sake of the greater good. Tom Wall, United Methodist Campus Minister stated her “attitudes and actions are a kind of moral glue which gives our Carolina community an ethic of concern for the dignity and wellbeing of others.”



Brandi Evans

Outstanding Student Volunteer Award

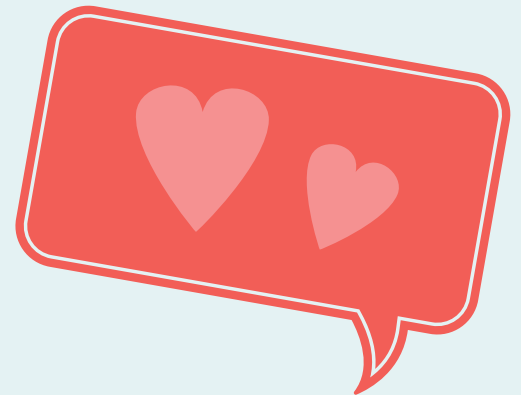
Pantry Pal volunteer, Brandi Evans, is heavily involved across campus and has completed over 400 hours of service to her community. She is passionate about advocating for issues not commonly discussed by college students and works hard to alleviate food insecurity. She started Growing USC which aims to develop the next generation of food and advocacy leaders.

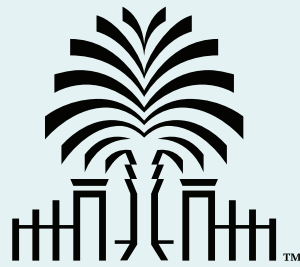


Thank You!

The Gamecock Pantry could not function without the support and donations from university departments, student organizations, community partners, and individuals.

- Alpha Gamma Delta
- Arnold School of Public Health
- Campus Recreation, Sport Clubs
- Capstone Scholars
- Carolina Community Garden
- Carolina Food Co.
- Carolina Judicial Council
- Center for Health and Wellbeing
- College of Arts and Sciences
- College of Hospitality, Retail and Sport Management
- College of Information and Communications
- Columbia Rotary Club
- Dean's Student Advisory Council
- Department of History
- Department of Student Life
- Dodie Anderson Academic Enrichment Center
- Food Recovery Network
- Graduate School
- Honors College
- Krispy Kreme
- Methodist Student Network
- National Fellowships and Scholar Programs
- National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience and Students in Transition
- Office of New Student Orientation
- Office of the President
- Panera Bread
- Pi Beta Phi
- Piggly Wiggly
- Public Health Society
- Residence Hall Association
- Russell House University Union
- School of Music
- Sustainable Carolina
- The Arc of South Carolina
- Theta Tau
- Thomas & Hutton
- UofSC Parents and Families
- University Housing
- Whole Foods





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Leadership and Service Center
Department of Student Life
Division of Student Affairs and Academic Support