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Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week is co-sponsored by the National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness and the National Coalition for the Homeless.

Find us online at HHWeek.org
facebook.com/HHWeek
twitter.com/HHWeek
instagram.com/HHWeek

The National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness is committed to ending hunger and homelessness by educating, engaging, and training students to directly meet individuals’ immediate needs while advocating for long-term systemic solutions.
www.StudentsAgainstHunger.org

The National Coalition for the Homeless is a national network of people who are currently experiencing or who have experienced homelessness, activists and advocates, community-based and faith-based service providers, and others committed to a single mission: To prevent and end homelessness while ensuring the immediate needs of those experiencing homelessness are met and their civil rights protected.
www.NationalHomeless.org

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HUNGER & HOMELESSNESS

NO ONE SHOULD HAVE TO WORRY about whether they will have food on their plate or a roof over their head. But the reality is that hunger and homelessness are widespread problems that affect far too many people.

IN THE U.S.

More than 42 million Americans are at risk of suffering from hunger.

Nearly 1 in 5 children lives in poverty.

Many Americans are living on the edge, forced to choose between basic necessities like purchasing food, paying rent, or going to the doctor.

- In 2015, 43.1 million Americans were living below the poverty level. For children under 18, the poverty rate was 19.7%.1

- More than 41 million Americans are dependent on food stamps.2

- On a typical night in 2016, more than 549,000 Americans were homeless.3

- Nearly 2.5 million children in America experience homelessness each year. That’s one in 30 children.4

ON CAMPUS

Poverty isn’t exclusive to any one community. Even college campuses are not immune. Student food insecurity is a growing concern on campuses.

- A 2015 survey of students at the University of California system found that 42% of students were food insecure, meaning that they lacked reliable access to sufficient amounts of affordable, nutritious food.5

- A similar study of community college students at 70 colleges found that 67% of students were at least marginally food insecure and 14% had experienced some form of homelessness in the previous year.6

- A nationwide study by NSCAH and the Student PIRGs in 2016 surveyed students at 34 colleges and found that 48% of respondents reported being food insecure, including 22% with very low levels of food security that qualified them as hungry.7

7. https://studentsagainsthunger.org/hunger-on-campus/
ENDING HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS

Given the scale of these problems, we must come together as a society to make sure everyone has access to food and shelter.

Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week is an opportunity to tackle these issues on your campus. The Awareness Week is a way to:

• **Educate** the student body and your community about these issues and build support for solutions;

• **Perform community service** that helps those in need; and

• **Raise money and donations** to support local agencies that are on the front line in addressing hunger and homelessness.

WORLDWIDE

At the global level, the problem is even more serious. While there has been slow but steady progress over the past thirty years, there are still a tremendous number of people who live in extreme poverty.

• **795 million people** – or one in nine people in the world – do not have enough to eat. Of those, 60% are women.8

• 767 million people in developing countries live below the international poverty line of $1.90 per person per day.9

• The Syrian refugee crisis has rapidly developed into the largest humanitarian disaster of the 21st century. More than **11 million Syrians** have been displaced from their homes and many are now living in abject poverty.10

WORLDWIDE

795 million people—or **1 in 9** people in the world—do not have enough to eat.

**767 million** people live on $1.90 a day or less.

**Every 10 seconds, a child dies** of a hunger-related disease.

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As the holidays approach, people take time to consider what they’re thankful for and many choose to donate some of their time, attention, and resources to others. In that spirit of giving, each year the National Coalition for the Homeless and the National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness sponsor Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week during the week prior to Thanksgiving.

Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week is designed to educate your community, draw attention to the problems of poverty, and build up the base of volunteers and supporters for local anti-poverty agencies. Your group will spend this week generating publicity about hunger and homelessness and holding a series of events to engage the campus community.

This amazing event was first held at Villanova University in 1975. This year, more than 750 colleges, high schools, and community groups across the country will come together during this week to raise awareness about the pressing issues of hunger and homelessness.

Participating in Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week not only raises awareness and promotes ending poverty in your own community—it also strengthens the national movement to end hunger and homelessness. Bringing attention to the plight of the hungry and homeless can foster greater understanding and solidarity and inspire others to take action.

» REGISTER NOW

Please take a moment now to register your Awareness Week at HHWeek.org.

Registering your event helps us show that there’s a national movement of students doing what it takes to eliminate poverty in their communities and helps to maximize your impact. It also lets our organizing team keep in touch with you to provide helpful resources and updates.

NOVEMBER 10-18, 2018
HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS WEEK

Please take a moment now to register your Awareness Week at HHWeek.org.

Registering your event helps us show that there’s a national movement of students doing what it takes to eliminate poverty in their communities and helps to maximize your impact. It also lets our organizing team keep in touch with you to provide helpful resources and updates.
Every school will hold a different assortment of events during their Awareness Week, but we strongly encourage every school to include a food and clothing drive in the mix.

Food and clothing drives have always been a popular element of Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. There’s a pressing demand for food and clothing donations during the winter months, so your drive can meet an immediate need in the community. In addition, donating food and clothing gives students an easy way to participate in Awareness Week and make an impact.

Nationwide, the donations that we collect during Awareness Week will help feed and clothe thousands of people in need. After the week, schools will be asked to visit HHWeek.org and tell us how much food and clothing you collected. We’ll add up the numbers and let you know the total amount we were able to collect by working together.

Here are a few tips on organizing your food and clothing drive:

• You should prioritize gathering food and clothing during your week-long drive. However, feel free to also collect other non-perishable items such as blankets, hygiene products, and toys. Make sure to talk with local service providers in advance to research what items they need most.

• You can also make your drive really visible and exciting by finding a way to showcase the amount of food and clothing being collected. For example, run a “Fill the Bus” drive by getting a bus donated for the week and asking students to help fill the bus with donations.

• One way to make your drive really big is to turn it into a contest. Have student organizations or dorms compete to see who can collect the most donations. Get local businesses to donate prizes for the winners.
START EARLY

Early planning is important. Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week will arrive before you know it. The earlier you start brainstorming, planning, and organizing, the bigger and better your week will go. Starting early also makes it easier to recruit partners, reserve rooms and equipment, book speakers and vendors, and raise money for supplies.

As you make your plan, here are some of the questions that you will need to answer:

• How many events do you want to hold during the week? Which events?
• When and where should each event take place?
• How many volunteers will you need in order to coordinate each event?
• What campus and community groups should you ask to partner on each event?
• What are creative ways to publicize the week and raise awareness?
• What are the most urgent needs you might be able to meet through service or fundraising events for local people experiencing hunger or homelessness?

PLANNING YOUR EVENTS

One of your most important tasks is deciding what events you want to hold during your Awareness Week and when to schedule each one.

Your ideal week should have a mix of events. We encourage groups to include at least one of each of the following event types:

• Educational events
• Fundraising events
• Community service events
• Advocacy events

Give some thought to how many events you can realistically hold during the week. Some schools will hold events every day while others will not. Decide as a group what you can accomplish based on your people and resources. If you think you’re stretched too thin, focus on quality over quantity.

Later in this toolkit, we include suggestions for events that you can organize, based on what has worked well in the past. You
should also feel free to get creative and come up with your own ideas.

» FLOW OF THE WEEK

As you plan out your week, here are some tips on when to schedule each piece.

- Your publicity should happen throughout the week, but it’s particularly important that you make a big splash at the beginning of the week so that students know that Awareness Week is taking place. Front-load a few big visibility tactics in order to make sure that you launch the week properly.

- You should generally start with smaller events and build up to your biggest events. This gives people time to hear about the week and the issues so that they’re ready to participate when the bigger events come along.

- However, you may want to hold one big event at the beginning of the week in order to generate attention and excitement and kick things off.

- It can be hard to get students to participate in off-campus community service events during school hours, so it’s usually best to schedule these for late in the afternoon or on the weekend.

The University of Akron included a wide range of events in their 2015 Awareness Week.

HUNGER & HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS WEEK 2015

ALL WEEK EVENTS

Conmed Food Drive
Center For Service and Leadership, Pettit Student Union
Drop off canned food or non-perishable items to donate to the Akron Canton Regional Foodbank.

SNAP Challenge
What it is: It really is possible to dine on a tight budget determined by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Formerly known as Food Stamps.

To find out, someone is bringing to campus the SNAP Challenge, starting on Sunday, Nov. 15. The SNAP Challenge offers, students, staff, and faculty a view of what it is to live on a tight budget. Participants will simulate what it is like to live on a food stamp budget ($4.56) day to food for the week.

If you would like to participate in this experience, register at uakron.edu/hunger. If there are any questions, contact serve@uakron.edu.

DAILY EVENTS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15
Movie: Pursuit of Happyness
2pm-4pm, Student Union Theater
Come watch the “Pursuit of Happyness,” a movie about the life struggle for single father Chris Gardner (Will Smith) after being evicted from their apartment, he and his young son (Jaden Christopher) are forced to live on the streets and themselves alone with no place to go. Free popcorn provided sponsored by AHM.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16
Drop-In Service: Fleece Scarves
11am-1pm, Student Union 2nd Floor Lounge
Stop by to make a fleece scarf that will be donated to a local homeless shelter in the Akron community.

All In For Hunger
8pm-9pm, Student Union Ballrooms
Join ZPRA and complete for a night of poker, table games, slot machines, and a cash draw. For every time canned good you will receive one raffle ticket. Over $2,000 worth of prizes will be raffled off.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17
Drop-In Service: Decorate Lunch Bags
11am-1pm, Student Union 2nd Floor Lounge
Stop by to decorate a lunch bag that will be filled with snacks and distributed at a local homeless shelter.

Stop Hunger Now
6pm-8pm, Student Union Ballroom
Learn about Stop Hunger Now’s mission to end hunger by providing food and nutrition education. And join us in packaging 10,000 meals.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18
Drop-In Service: Blanket Drive
11am-1pm, Student Union 2nd Floor Lounge
Stop by to help construct fleece blankets that will be donated to individuals at a local homeless shelter.

Hunger Dinner
6pm-8pm, Student Union Ballroom
Join us for the annual Dinner Hunger Dinner. This is an interactive simulation of poverty where guests are assigned the identities of people of lower, middle, and upper income levels and provided meals according to these designations. Meals and attendance to the event is free for all UA students, staff, and faculty.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19
Super Service Saturday
8:30am-10:30am, Akron Canton Regional Foodbank
Spend your Saturday morning giving back to the local community in Northeast Ohio. Please RSVP to serv@uakron.edu

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20
Can Castle Competition
11am-12:30pm, Student Union 2nd Floor Lounge
**Top 30 cans will be awarded by the judges.

Service Opportunity
1pm-2pm, Haven of Rest
** Make it at 1:00pm in the student union.

Volunteer your Friday afternoon helping the local homeless community.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21
Super Service Saturday
8:30am-10:30am, Akron Canton Regional Foodbank
Spend your Saturday morning giving back to the local community in Northeast Ohio. Please RSVP to serv@uakron.edu

**Meet at the Student Union at 8am.

For more information & RSVP visit uakron.edu/hunger or contact serve@uakron.edu
**BUILD YOUR TEAM**

To organize a great Awareness Week, there’s a lot of work to be done: scheduling space, publicizing events, contacting the media, finding and preparing speakers, coordinating with local agencies, recruiting students to attend, creating materials, etc.

To manage all of these tasks, you should establish a planning committee of student volunteers who will steer your Awareness Week. Your top volunteers should take on leadership roles and manage different pieces of the planning process.

Here are some important roles to fill:

- **Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week Coordinator** – This person is in charge of the whole week, chairs the overall planning meetings, and works closely with the other leaders.

- **Publicity Coordinator** - This person is responsible for implementing the visibility plan for the week, including designing and distributing materials such as posters, banners, leaflets, website content, social media images, etc.

- **Media Coordinator** – This person is in charge of contacting reporters and editors at local media outlets to pitch them on covering the week’s events.

- **Coalition Coordinator** – This person is in charge of recruiting other organizations and people to partner on events, then working closely with them to make the most of their participation.

- **Event Coordinators** – Each big event during the week should have a person who is in charge of that event’s success and will coordinate the other volunteers who are helping with logistics, recruitment, etc.

*Rutgers University students run a campus food drive.*
SEEK OUT PARTNERS

One great thing about Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week is that it provides an opportunity to work with lots of different organizations and people on campus. You should look for ways to work with as many partners as possible, as a way to make your Awareness Week as big as possible. Depending on the partner, they can bring people, supplies, money, visibility, and other resources to your events.

Here are some ideas for groups to approach:

- **Service Organizations** – These are natural partners for the community service and fundraising events in your week.

- **Campus Ministry/Religious Groups** – Religious groups frequently look for community service projects to join around the holidays. You can also ask these groups to make hunger and homelessness the theme of their weekly service.

- **Fraternities and Sororities** – You can work with the Greek philanthropy chairs to adopt the week as one of their service events. Greeks are competitive, so organize a contest to see which house can raise the most money or food or turn out the most volunteers.

- **Student Government** – Ask them to pass a resolution in support of the week, supply funding for your events, or help with publicity. Invite the president and other leaders to speak at your biggest events, talk to the media, or volunteer at service events.

- **Residence Halls** – Get the RAs to organize educational events for their residents, recruit residents to volunteer, or run a food drive contest between dorms.

- **Affinity Groups** – Many affinity groups have community service committees that would be excited to participate in the week’s events. In addition to asking them to join your events, encourage them to help come up with event ideas or educational programs specific to their communities.

- **Sports Teams** – Teams have big fan bases so they can be great at generating publicity. If you can get a team to come volunteer at an event, that can be a great way to get attention and media coverage. For fall sports, ask teams to offer a discount ticket price for people who bring food donations to their games that week.

- **Faculty** – Ask supportive faculty members to promote the week by making announcements in their classes about events, offering extra credit for participation, or attending events themselves.
PUBLICIZE YOUR WEEK

Publicity is critical to the success of your week – it’s the biggest way that you raise awareness. Visibility will also help you recruit more people to come to your events and donate to your fundraisers.

When it comes to visibility: think big! A lot of events happen every day on campus so it takes a lot of visibility to break through the noise and get noticed. Think of the other big events that happen on your campus and try to match their level of publicity.

Here are a few tips:

- Use a wide variety of tactics – posters, banners, flyers, chalking, Facebook, email, websites, announcements at classes and group meetings, etc.
- Your volunteers can be the best ambassadors for your message. Have them wear Awareness Week t-shirts, post Awareness Week content on their social media accounts, hang Awareness Week posters on their dorm room doors, etc.
- Get creative! Think outside the box.
- Utilize your partners. You can reach a ton of people by getting other groups to email their members, make announcements at their meetings, and post content on social media.

GET MEDIA ATTENTION

Media coverage is a powerful tool for raising awareness about hunger and homelessness – it lets you reach more people than you could ever contact through other means. You should notify campus and community media outlets about your Awareness Week events and ask them to cover them.

Start by making a list of the media outlets in your community, including your campus newspaper, campus TV and radio stations, local newspaper, local TV and radio stations, and local blogs. Look up the contact info for the news editors at each outlet.

Two weeks before your Awareness Week, call each outlet to pitch them on covering your week and the issues of hunger and homelessness. Encourage them to use the Awareness Week as an opportunity to do some in-depth coverage on local poverty issues. Also pitch them on the individual
events taking place during your week.

As you get closer to the week, go back and re-pitch each outlet on the individual events taking place during Awareness Week. Pick one or two events that you think are the most newsworthy and put the most energy into pitching those events.

Here are some additional tips:

- Ask the campus paper to dedicate a full page or section during the week to the issues of hunger and homelessness.
- Ask campus radio and TV stations to run public service announcements about the week.
- Get the campus shuttle system to donate ad space in their buses.
- Create photo opportunities and let the media know about them. Your events will be more attractive to news photographers if they have creative visual displays or large numbers of participants.
- Invite the media to come with you on a volunteer trip to a local shelter or agency and urge them to write about the experience. (Be sure to get permission from the shelter director first.)
- Have volunteers submit letters to the editor to the local newspaper about the problems of hunger and homelessness and what students are doing about them.

The Awareness Week can be a great chance to get positive coverage for the campus. Ask the university’s media relations staff if they will help reach out to local media outlets.

Students at the University of Maryland make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the homeless.
CAMPUS PROFILE

VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY

The Student Leadership and Involvement Center organizes VCU’s annual Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. They utilize partnerships with Residential Life and Housing, the Division of Community Engagement, and the campus programming board to promote the week and make it a success.

For VCU’s most recent week, they raised awareness by holding an Oxfam Hunger Banquet, screening a documentary film, and organizing a panel discussion on homelessness among LGBTQ youth. In addition, VCU recruited students to assemble pre-packaged meals that were then sent to impoverished areas of the globe. They topped off their week with a food drive to collect canned goods for the RamPantry, VCU’s on-campus food pantry.
12 GREAT IDEAS FOR EDUCATIONAL & SERVICE EVENTS

1  "ONE NIGHT WITHOUT A HOME" SLEEP-OUT
Organize a sleep-out on the quad where students spend a night outside (usually 12 hours, from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.) to discuss, think, and learn about homelessness. Although one night outside can in no way equate with real homelessness, this activity can raise awareness among both participants and the campus community. A variation on this concept is a “Living in a Car” sleep-out, where volunteers take turns spending 12-hour shifts living in a car in a public location to simulate how some homeless people are forced to live.

2  FACES OF HOMELESSNESS PANEL
Host a panel discussion where current or formerly homeless individuals speak about their experiences and answer questions from the audience. This is a powerful way to create a dialogue between people who have experienced homelessness and students who are interested in the issue. Contact the Speakers’ Bureau at the National Coalition for the Homeless, which can help you find panelists: http://nationalhomeless.org/about-us/projects/faces/.

3  OXFAM HUNGER BANQUET
An Oxfam Hunger Banquet is an event that dramatizes the world’s unequal distribution of food. Attendees are randomly assigned to one of three socio-economic levels, representing the proportional global standards-of-living. Out of every 100 people, 20 enjoy a full-course meal complete with excellent service, 30 sit in a simple setting and eat a meager meal, and the remaining 50 share rice, without utensils, while sitting on the floor. During the meal, you can bring in speakers to discuss hunger and homelessness. Get resources for your banquet at: www.oxfamamerica.org/take-action/events/hunger-banquet/.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?
To get more detailed instructions and tips on how to organize each of these events, visit our website at HHWeek.org.
4. FOOD STAMP CHALLENGE
Organize a Food Stamp Challenge, also called a SNAP Challenge, in which participants attempt to eat on a food stamp budget for a week. Being forced to live on that budget and make difficult choices to avoid hunger and still find nutritious food can be an eye-opening experience for participants.


5. MEAL PACKAGING
Hold a meal packaging event, where volunteers assemble ingredients like rice and beans into pre-packaged meal packs that can be distributed to local or international food programs. Together, a few dozen volunteers can pack about 5,000 meals per hour. There are several programs that can manage the event logistics for you – we recommend the following:

Rise Against Hunger: http://www.riseagainsthunger.org/get-involved/host-a-meal-packaging-event/

The Outreach Program: http://outreachprogram.org/host-an-event/how-it-works/

Harvest Pack: http://harvestpack.org/meal-packaging/

6. MOVIE SCREENING
Showcase a film about hunger and homelessness. Invite students and the public to come watch the movie, then discuss the film afterward. The National Coalition for the Homeless recommends the documentary “Storied Streets,” which focuses on homelessness.


67. COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY
Organize a day of service where students can volunteer with a local organization such as a shelter, soup kitchen, or food bank.

8. FAITH-BASED OUTREACH
Ask campus religious groups, as well as local religious institutions such as churches, synagogues, temples, and mosques, to make hunger and homelessness the theme of their services that week.

KSU students hold a candlelight vigil to raise awareness about homelessness.
9. ELEMENTARY OUTREACH
Arrange a trip to an elementary school and read students a children’s book on hunger or homelessness, then have the teacher facilitate an age-appropriate discussion about the issue.

10. COMMUNITY QUILT
Construct a Community Quilt about hunger and homelessness. Set up a table where students can stop by and decorate their own quilt square that shows why these issues are important to them. Sew all the squares together, then display the quilt in a prominent place on campus.

11. PRODUCE GLEANING
At the end of the growing season, farms often have crops left behind that either couldn’t be sold or were too hard to harvest. Gleaning is the act of collecting this excess food. Get permission from a local farm to bring a team of volunteers to glean their surplus produce, then donate it to the local food bank.

12. POVERTY SIMULATION
Hold a poverty simulation, where participants roleplay the experience of living in poverty. This interactive workshop is designed to help people understand the daily challenges a person in poverty faces. Learn more at: www.povertysimulation.net
OSU’s Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week is organized by the Center for Civic Engagement. They have turned the event into a deeply collaborative project by partnering with a wide range of other campus offices, including the Human Services Resource Center, Pride Center, Student Sustainability Initiative, Associated Students of Oregon State University, and National Residence Hall Honorary.

OSU’s most recent Awareness Week featured a diverse calendar of programs. To raise awareness about the issues, they held a Faces of Homelessness panel discussion with people who have faced homelessness and also screened a documentary film. Students also had the opportunity to volunteer at a local community garden or collect hygiene items for a local youth shelter. They rounded out their week with a trip to lobby at the state capitol, as well as the chance to join a local housing advocacy group.
8 GREAT IDEAS FOR FUNDRAISING EVENTS

1 SWIPE-A-MEAL
Hold a swipe-a-meal event during which students on a dining hall meal plan can donate a meal’s worth or day’s worth of points to charity. If this is your first time doing a swipe-a-meal event, you will need to contact Dining Services to see if they will agree to participate and to negotiate with them to determine how much money they will donate for each dollar or point that students contribute. Learn more at www.swipehunger.org.

2 SPARE CHANGE DRIVE
Place giant jars around campus with “Donate Here” labels on them that explain the change drive and where the money will be donated. Put these jars everywhere – in dorm lobbies, campus stores, academic departments, dining halls, etc. – and advertise the drive around campus. You can also go door-to-door in the dorms or campus apartments to ask students to donate the change they have sitting around.

3. EMPTY BOWLS
Collaborate with your campus’s art department or a local art center to hold this event. First, have volunteers create and paint their own ceramic bowls (you’ll need to do this a few days in advance of the main event so that the bowls have time to bake in the kiln). Next, organize a meal where attendees who make a donation to charity get to eat a simple meal of soup and bread out of the handmade bowls. Each attendee gets to keep their bowl as a reminder of the experience. Learn more at: www.emptybowls.net.

Spare change drive at Salem State University; Empty Bowls fundraiser at Oberlin College.
4. **BAKE SALE**
Organize a bake sale to raise money for a local shelter or agency. Involve lots of partners in the event by getting student groups, faculty members, or other coalition partners to each agree to provide baked goods for the sale.

5. **BENEFIT CONCERT**
Host a concert with local bands or artists and get the bands and venue to donate the ticket sales to charity. Make sure to recruit bands that are popular on campus and already have a following, since this will make recruitment for the concert much easier.

6. **DINE-OUT NIGHT**
Get local restaurants to agree to designate a specific night when they will donate a percentage of their sales to local hunger organizations. Publicize the night to urge students to eat at participating restaurants on that evening.

7. **FUN RUN/WALK**
Organize a 5K fun run, walk, or bike ride. Set a registration fee or ask participants to collect a minimum amount in donations from sponsors. You can also get local businesses to donate drinks and snacks for the finish line, t-shirts for the runners, and prizes for the top finishers.

8. **CHARITY ART SHOW**
Sponsor a gallery night where you display and sell artwork created by homeless individuals, with the proceeds going either directly to the artists or to local groups that fight homelessness. You will need to partner in advance with local agencies to find homeless individuals who are willing to participate.
CAMPUS PROFILE

UNIVERSITY OF AKRON

The University of Akron’s Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week is organized by the Department of Student Life’s serveAkron office. In addition to a week-long food drive for their regional food bank, one of UA’s recent Awareness Weeks featured a busy schedule of educational events and service projects.

Their week included a movie screening, service trips to the local homeless shelter and regional food bank, a meal packaging event, and a casino night designed to teach players about poverty. A group of students, staff, and faculty members also spent the week taking the SNAP Challenge, by trying to live on the same daily budget as a food stamp recipient. In total, more than 400 students participated in the week’s events.
ENDING CHILDHOOD HUNGER

When kids are hungry, they struggle to learn. When kids don’t learn, they struggle in life. Still, 16 million American kids will go hungry today. We need to support and expand programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) that provide food aid for low-income families. You can urge your elected officials to support funding for SNAP, school lunch programs, and other programs that prevent children from going hungry. Collect petitions or photo petitions, write letters, or take other actions to urge your decision makers to take childhood hunger seriously.

DE-CRIMINALIZING HOMELESSNESS

Many major cities have laws that essentially criminalize homelessness by making it illegal for the homeless to sit, stand, sleep, or eat in public spaces. Recently, many cities have passed new laws that also make it illegal to provide aid for those in need, by imposing fines and even jail time for distributing food to hungry individuals on the street. If your city has passed food-sharing bans or similar laws that penalize the homeless and organizations that serve the homeless, then you can organize students to speak out against these policies. Collect petitions, gather handwritten letters, generate phone calls, or take other actions to urge your city’s mayor and city council to de-criminalize homelessness. Learn more at: http://nationalhomeless.org/issues/civil-rights/.

ACTION & OPPORTUNITIES FAIR

Host an opportunities fair on the campus quad. Invite local organizations that work with the hungry and homeless to set up tables where students can sign up to volunteer or receive information about how to get involved in the community.

VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE

Go out into the community to help register homeless people and low-
income people to vote. The easiest way to do this is to find a local soup kitchen, shelter, or other agency that will let you speak with their clients and help them fill out voter registration forms. Contact your local voter registrar’s office in advance to find out the rules that apply to voter registration drives and learn how to properly train your volunteers. In addition, make sure you know the proper way for homeless residents to complete the home address section of their voter registration form.

5. TOWN HALL MEETING

Host a community discussion about hunger and homelessness in order to draw attention to the issue and build support for solutions. Invite as many local stakeholders as possible, including elected officials, city and county staff, advocates from social service organizations, church leaders, and (very important) local residents who are hungry or homeless.

MORE TIPS & INFO @ HHWEEK.ORG
JOIN TOGETHER WITH PEOPLE ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO END HUNGER & HOMELESSNESS

VOLUNTEER. DONATE. EDUCATE.

PROMOTE HHWEEK ON YOUR CAMPUS
Visit HHWeek.org for downloadable materials and information on how to get posters, stickers, and t-shirts.