

OXFAM AMERICA'S DINING HALL FAST

“Dining halls on most campuses are operated by a food service company that contracts with the school to prepare and serve students’ meals. On the day of your Dining Hall Fast, students agree to give up one meal, and the food service company agrees to donate a percentage of the cost of that meal to Oxfam. In most cases, the company cannot donate the full cost, since it needs to cover their normal overhead expenses, including paying dining hall staff. Some students have successfully arranged to collect the unused portions of student meal plans at the end of each semester and donated those funds to Oxfam.”

Go to www.oxfamamerica.org for more detailed information and to download a free toolkit.

GUIDELINES

- Start early. Begin your planning four to eight weeks ahead to ensure the dining hall has plenty of time to prepare and you have plenty of time to publicize.
- Contact your school’s dining service. Talk with the food service director and explain the details of the fast and what you need from the dining service.
- Recruit Help. Gather volunteers to help sign-up fasters, staff information tables, and get the word out.
- Publicize. Put up posters, hand out brochures, and set up information tables. Oxfam can provide the materials you need. Send a press release to campus and local media or place an ad in your school newspaper. Get the president of your school or a prominent guest to join your Dining Hall Fast.
- Educate. Help participants understand why their involvement is essential. Visit Oxfam’s web site—<http://www.oxfamamerica.org/take-action/>—for free materials you can pass out at your event.

WRAP-UP

- After the Fast, send thank you letters to the food service staff and other contributors. Tell them to include their names and contact information with their donations to Oxfam America. Make sure you receive a photocopy of the check for your records.
- Evaluate your event. Record what went well and what did not for future reference.

Oxfam America

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