



WILDCAT PANTRY

2023 - 2024 IMPACT REPORT

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“The pantry is super important for students who don’t make enough income and are unable to buy basic living necessities.”

-Student Shopper

MESSAGE FROM THE COORDINATOR

Dear supporters of the Wildcat Pantry,

This is our third year in operation, our second year as a professional operation at CWU, and our first annual report. Each year we have grown exponentially in clients, volunteers, staff members, and distributed resources. We have added dietary-specific options, and cultural offerings, expanded our hygiene and household items, and so much more. This last academic year has seen the greatest amount of change yet. The Wildcat Pantry is officially a subcontractor of FISH Food Bank, bringing in thousands of pounds of additional food and bringing dozens of new items to the pantry.

Our volunteers are what made this possible. With more than 25 student volunteers dedicating time inside the pantry, our team was able to focus on the many programs we operate outside of the pantry. Our volunteers donated hundreds of hours which equated to approximately \$14,000 worth of payroll. Without them, we could not financially maintain staffing the pantry while also serving students across campus in a variety of methods. Nor could we have opened the pantry for 26 hours each week of the academic term. As a group, they made the second-largest donation to the pantry this year. Thank you, so, so very much, you are what makes the Wildcat Pantry a success.

This year our team oversaw the biggest change to the pantry since we opened our doors in 2021. We moved from our first location, a modified support room in Brooks Library to the former University Relations studio also located in Brooks Library. This space went through a complete renovation completed by CWU Facilities, funded by the CWU Office of the President. I cannot thank these three groups, along with CWU Libraries enough for making this transition possible.

I hope after reading our first-ever annual impact report you get an idea of how the Wildcat Pantry is more than just your ordinary food pantry and learn firsthand about the students who make this possible and the impact it has at Central.

Brayden Smith
Wildcat Pantry Coordinator



“When I’m unable to afford groceries I can use the pantry to satisfy my current needs.”

“The Wildcat Pantry was a great resource in my first year of college for not only myself but also my friends.”



“Being a part of something like this puts into perspective how different people are and how everyone's lives are affected by the small things.”

“Not only was it nice to have fresh fruits and vegetables, but also the resources in the pantry prevented me from running out of dining dollars too early in the quarter.”





WHO WE ARE

MISSION

The Wildcat Pantry works to empower CWU students by removing barriers to essential resources that support holistic well-being. We do this by providing access to free groceries, essential clothing, and educational programming that addresses systemic issues.

VISION

Every Wildcat has access to consistent and accessible resources supporting their holistic well-being, fostering confidence in fulfilling their basic needs and ensuring personal, academic, and professional success.

Visit cwu.edu/student-life/wildcat-pantry/ or email wildcatpantry@cwu.edu to find out more

GET INVOLVED

The Wildcat Pantry offers short-term and long-term volunteer options available. The most common volunteer opportunity is to staff our main pantry space. This includes checking shoppers in, providing shopping assistance, cleaning, stocking, and organizing. We also have opportunities to volunteer with food recovery, at events, and on special projects. Reach out to wildcatpantry@cwu.edu to get started!

VOLUNTEER

DONATE

Become a donor today to keep the pantry running at full potential. You can donate monetarily through our website, buy off our Amazon wish list, or bring in shelf-stable foods to the pantry. We only ask that you please do not donate expired, opened, or damaged items.

“Volunteering at the pantry enables me to contribute to the CWU community, even the whole Ellensburg community while witnessing firsthand its positive impact on those it serves.”

-Long Term Volunteer

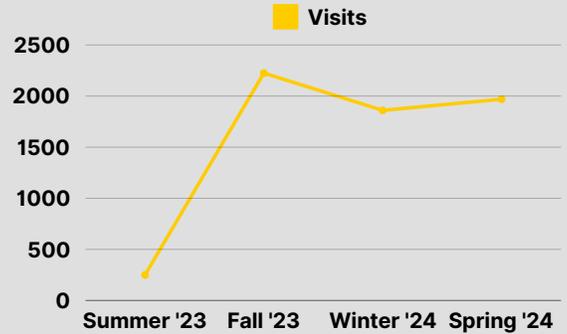


THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS!

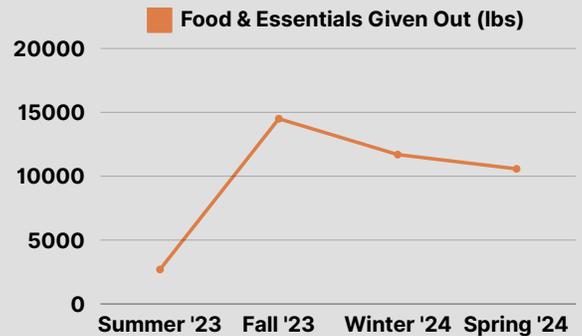
BY THE NUMBERS



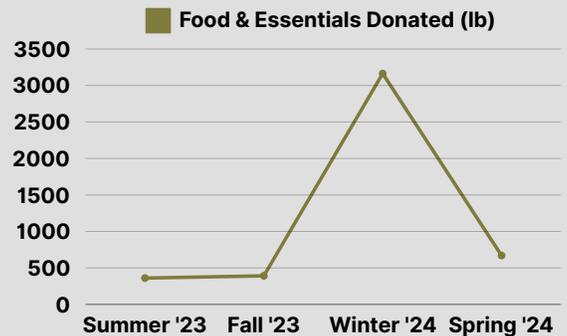
**TOTAL VISITS FOR THE
2023-2024 ACADEMIC
YEAR : 6,628**



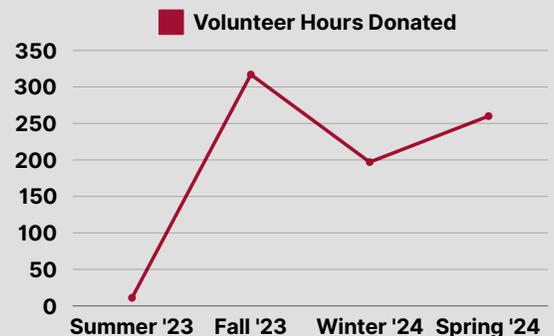
**FOOD AND ESSENTIALS
GIVEN OUT: 39,462
POUNDS**



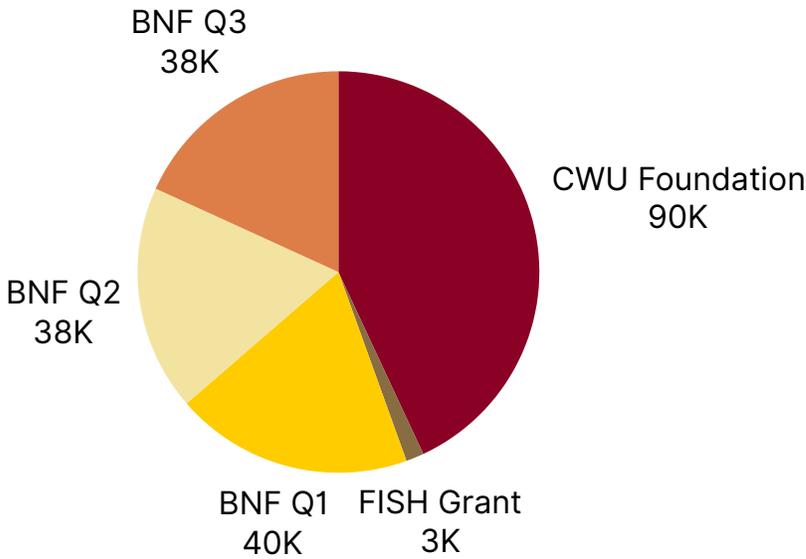
**FOOD AND ESSENTIALS
DONATED: 4,585.5
POUNDS**



**48 PEOPLE DONATED
785 VOLUNTEER HOURS**



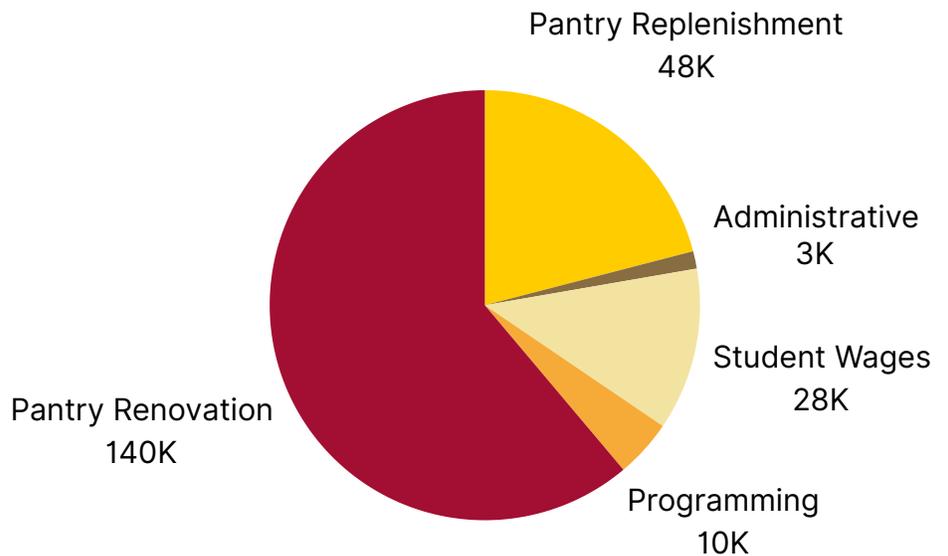
FUNDING SOURCES



The Wildcat Pantry received funding through three main sources this year. The majority of the pantry funds were from the Basic Needs Fee (BNF). This covered the cost of pantry replenishment, student wages, programming, and other operational expenses. The Wildcat Pantry Foundation account covered replenishment costs over Winter Break and funded our new furniture for the pantry. This year as a part of our subcontractor agreement we received a grant administered through FISH Food Bank. These funds went to additional student wage costs and a portion of our pantry replenishment.

EXPENSES

The Wildcat Pantry's funding was allocated across four key areas. The largest portion was dedicated to the renovation of the shopping area, including \$90,000 for new furniture, supported by the President's Office and foundation donors. Other expenses include the refurbishment of the pantry's space, including wall removal, painting, new carpeting, and overall upgrades. A significant portion also went towards inventory replenishment to better serve student needs. Additionally, funds were used to cover student wages for managing staffing, volunteer training, and programming. Although a smaller expense, programming support remains crucial for engaging with the student body.



SHARING THE ABUNDANCE

FALL FESTIVAL



Education is a vital part of basic needs security. The Fall Festival allows students to meet on-campus and off-campus basic needs partners and learn about their resources. In doing this, knowledge of essential resources can spread across campus and stigma can be reduced. While there they can also get free food, free casual clothes, win raffles, play games, and hang out with friends.

Partners

25 GROUPS

Engagement

300 STUDENTS

Cost

\$3,000

PACK THE PANTRY



OVERVIEW

Pack the Pantry is our biggest yearly food and essentials drive in January. The donations from this are critical to keeping the Pantry stocked during the winter and spring months. We are beyond thankful to all those who were generous in their participation! Every donation helps wildcats reach their full potential.

1,800

TOTAL POUNDS COLLECTED

2 MONTHS

WORTH OF SUPPORT

CHAMPIONS

11 CWU divisions participated in a friendly competition to raise the most donations. A special thank you to the Provost Division who raised 684 pounds of food and essentials. Your commitment to student well-being is greatly appreciated.

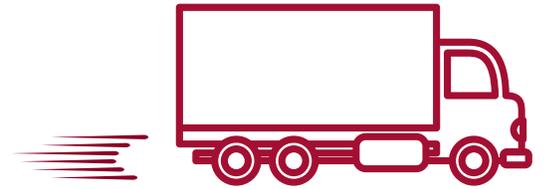
#1 PROVOST DIVISION

#2 STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND SUCCESS

#3 PRESIDENT'S DIVISION

2nd HARVEST

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY



Each academic quarter, we partner with Second Harvest to bring food to the CWU and Ellensburg communities. Students and families can come via drive-up or walk-up lines and receive up to two weeks of free groceries. These events allow us to give out larger quantities and a different variety of food than are commonly offered in the Pantry.



FALL '23

338

Families Served

5,223

Meals Provided

WINTER '24

183

Families Served

6,429

Meals Provided

SPRING '24

269

Families Served

6,668

Meals Provided

POP-UPS & DRIVES

Winter Coat Drive

The winter coat drive happens in early fall each year and allows CWU to share winter clothing essentials with fellow Wildcats who need them. New and gently used jackets, hats, scarves, gloves, socks, pants, and boots are donated at drop-off locations around campus. Those who need them can pick them up at the Wildcat Pantry as supplies last. This past year we collected and distributed 35 winter clothing essentials.

Don't Waste Donate

Don't Waste Donate is a spring event that offers students a chance to reduce waste when moving out of their residence halls or apartments. Students can donate clothes, furniture, cookware, school supplies, and knickknacks. Other students can then shop those donations for free to find new things they would enjoy.

Pop-Up Pantries

Pop-up pantries allow us to spread awareness of our resources by tabling and handing out food in different locations around campus. This year we did pop-up pantries at various events and locations including Friendsgiving, new student orientation, and the SURC.



WHAT'S NEXT?



UPDATED FURNITURE

New shelving and furniture are scheduled to arrive mid to late September. We hope this project will allow the pantry to have more resources available, be more accessible, and have a smoother shopping experience.

PANTRY SOFT

Coming this fall is Pantry Soft, a new check-in/check-out and inventory system. Once implemented, students can expect a simpler shopping experience and more efficient back-end reporting for our staff.

FALL EVENTS

Look out for our events this fall! Included will be the Fall Abundance Festival, Grand Reopening, Coat-tober Coat Drive, and Second Harvest Mobile Market. Follow our social media, @wildcatpantry, for more details.

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THANK YOU PARTNERS

Student Volunteers - Staff Volunteers - Faculty Volunteers
- FISH Food Bank - CWU Libraries - CWU President's
Office - CWU Dining - CWU Career Services - CWU
Foundation - HopeSource - APOYO - 2nd Harvest -
ASCWU Student Government - CWU Wellness - CWU
Orientation - CWU Sustainability - Wildcat Farm - CWU
Residence Life - CWU SLICE - KCRCO - CWU PUSH - CWU
DEC - CWU University Relations - CWU Recreation -
Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce - CWU Police -
CWU Office of Title IX - CWU Student Rights &
Responsibilities - CWU HR - CWU Capital
Planning & Projects - CWU Jump Start -
CWU SURC Scheduling -
& Many More