
The Wildcat Pantry

2024
IMPACT
REPORT

*Fall Quarter 2024 Wrapped,
The Pantry in Review*

01	Letter from the Team
02	
03	Our Values
04	The Numbers
05	The Comparison
06	Our Volunteers
07	Collaborations
08	Events & Accomplishments
09	Coming Soon
10	Thank You
11	Stay Engaged



Table of Contents

Letter from the Team



From the Wildcat Pantry

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Since its inception, the Wildcat Pantry has grown not only in its outreach but also in the incredible support it receives from the student body and the greater CWU community. None of our accomplishments this past quarter would have been possible without your continued encouragement and contributions. While we have encountered challenges along the way, our commitment to serving the student body has driven us to persevere and succeed.

Our motivation is fueled by the dedication of our campus partners, student volunteers, and donors who have generously invested their time and energy into advancing the Pantry's mission. Together, we have built upon the foundation of a once-modest initiative, allowing us to achieve significant milestones and better serve our students.

As we enter our fourth year of operation—and our third year as a professional organization at CWU—we remain steadfast in our efforts to grow and improve the Wildcat Pantry. We view every investment in the Pantry as an investment in the success of the students who call CWU home. What began as a student-led initiative led by three passionate individuals has evolved into a robust operation supported by seven student employees and one full-time coordinator. This growth reflects the creativity, care, and passion of our team as we strive to empower students to support one another.

Letter from the Team

Despite this progress, food insecurity continues to affect CWU students at an alarming rate. While we understand that fully eradicating food insecurity may not be an immediate reality, we remain hopeful that our initiatives can one day achieve the extraordinary. Through the collective efforts of our volunteers, supporters, and team, we aim to empower students to thrive academically, personally, and professionally.

There is still much work to be done, but we are encouraged by the unwavering support we have received from our community. With your continued help, we will strive to provide students with the resources they need to achieve self-actualization and succeed during their time at CWU.

Thank you for taking the time to read this report and learn more about the initiatives supported by the Wildcat Pantry. We deeply appreciate your partnership and look forward to what we can accomplish together.

**With Gratitude,
The Wildcat Pantry**





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.

Mission

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

The Numbers

Clients Registered

This year we partnered with PantrySoft to transform the Pantry into more of a shopping experience. With PantrySoft we have registered 622 clients, including students and members from our local community.

622
Clients

Visits in the Pantry

Compared to the Fall quarter of 2023, we have seen a 14% increase in visits to the Pantry. This does not include our Pop-Up Pantries and Food Recovery initiatives.

2,962
Visits

Items Distributed

Within the Pantry and our grab-and-go locations, we have distributed 20,516 food, hygiene, and household items.

20,516
Distributed

Donations from the Community

The Wildcat Pantry is thankful for our amazing community that continues to support us. This Fall quarter we have received a total of 286 lbs. of food, hygiene, and household donations.

286
Lbs in
Donations

The Comparison

Visits and Distribution

The Wildcat Pantry will always be committed to doing better and improving where we can. Because of this, we wanted to compare our stats from Fall 2024 to Fall 2023.



Visit Comparison

Compared to the Fall quarter of 2023, the Wildcat Pantry has seen an increase in visits by 14%

14% ↖

Item Distribution Comparison

Compared to the Fall quarter of 2023, the Wildcat Pantry has seen an increase in items distributed by around 62%

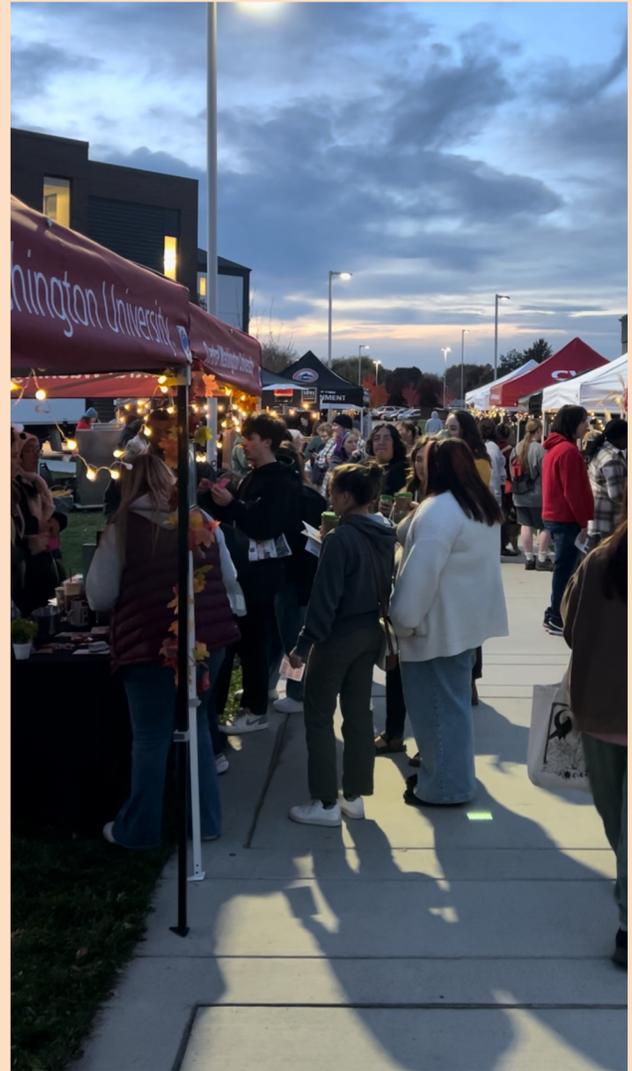
62% ↖

Get Involved

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

“I made a lot of memories and friends that I still have a year later. It’s really great to see what the Pantry has become, but also to think about the good times [at the Wildcat Pantry].”

• *Eli Alvarado, Previous volunteer*



**Number of
Volunteers
and
Volunteer
Hours**

We are so grateful to have so many people who are willing to help serve their community. This year we have had 22 volunteers within the pantry. Together totaling 120 volunteer hours which is \$2,248.80 donated to us in volunteer services.

22
Volunteers
120
Volunteer
Hours

Collaborations

CWU Dining

For the past 3 years, we have partnered with CWU Dining to eliminate food waste via a food recovery initiative. This quarter we have recovered thousands of food items including 3,737 various plates of food and 462 pastries.

4,199
Items

Jump Start

We collaborated with JumpStart to provide a cooking class. These cooking classes help educate students on how to maximize the uses of the items found within the Wildcat Pantry. In the future, we are looking to expand this to all students, not just JumpStart students.

19
Attendees



Events & Accomplishments

Remodel

Since last year, we have made a lot of changes. We switched location and got new furniture to better serve CWU students.

Pantry Soft

The implementation of PantrySoft has simplified the checkout experience as well as provided useful operational data.

Second Harvest

On October 8th, we partnered with Second Harvest. They helped us distribute fresh, nutritious food to members of the community.

Coat-Tober

Throughout October, the CWU community donated gently used winter gear to keep students warm through the cold winter months ahead.

Fall Festival

We partnered with on and off campus resources to showcase campus and community resources available to CWU students.

Friends Giving

This was our first year hosting FriendsGiving! We were happy to partner with dining to provide a delicious FriendsGiving meal and create a space for connection.

Basic Needs Awareness Week

To help advertise the different resources that the Wildcat Pantry and Basic Needs Resource Coordinator have to offer, we hosted multiple different events the week of November 18th. We encouraged students to get involved, learn, and celebrate with us!

Coming Soon

09

Second Harvest

Winter and Spring Quarter

Like this Fall quarter, we are planning to host Second Harvest two more times this year. One time during the Winter Quarter, and another time during the Spring quarter.

New Coordinator

Transitioning out our Interim Coordinator

The Wildcat Pantry is currently looking for someone to replace our Interim Coordinator, Luis Reyes. We are hopeful to welcome a new coordinator at the start of the Winter quarter.

On-Campus SNAP Enrollment

We want to make SNAP enrollment easier and more accessible for CWU students.

Food Diversity

In The Works

To better align with the University's values of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, the Wildcat Pantry is drafting multiple plans to expand the diversity of the products and foods we provide. For example, we have different cultural foods at the Pantry. However, we want to expand the type and amount of cultural foods we have to better represent the student body at CWU.

Pack the Pantry

January 13th - January 31st

The University's annual Pack the Pantry Drive for the Wildcat Pantry asks for donations of non-perishable food, clothing, household goods, hygiene products, and other essentials.

Cooking Classes

For the Entire Student Body

This quarter, the cooking classes were hosted by JumpStart. Therefore, only JumpStart students were invited. As we look to the future, we plan on making cooking classes available to all students.

Farmers Market

In Tandem With SNAP Enrollment

With our goal to have on-campus SNAP enrollment, we also want to host on-campus farmers markets. SNAP uses are very limited and we want to give students the ability to use their SNAP credits more often and more effectively.

Student Volunteers - Staff Volunteers - Faculty
Volunteers - FISH Food Bank - CWU Libraries - CWU
President's Office - CWU Dining - CWU Diversity and
Equity Center - CWU Career Services - CWU Foundation
- 2nd Harvest - ASCWU Student Government - CWU
Office of Health Promotion - CWU Orientation - CWU
Sustainability - Wildcat Farm - KCRCO - CWU University
Relations - CWU Recreation - Central Transit - CWU
Police - CWU HR - CWU Jump Start -
CWU SURC Scheduling - Peer Nutrition Education
& Many More

Thank You

STAY ENGAGED

11

The Wildcat Pantry is grateful for the support of anyone who shares the belief that food is essential to health and that students deserve access to the resources they need to succeed at CWU.

Be a part of our mission today!



Donate

We accept donations of clothing, plastic bags, cookware, and food (cannot be expired, unsealed, or damaged). Donation bins and shelves can be found outside the Pantry.



Fundraising

Host a drive and make it themed (cultural foods, hygiene products, school supplies, bag donations, etc.)!

You could also create a fundraising event (add a dollar to your order, carwash, etc.)



Volunteering

The Wildcat Pantry has multiple different trainings throughout the year. Earn volunteer hours and connect with your fellow Wildcats!



Connect

Have any questions? Contact us at:

Instagram: @cwuwildcatpantry

Website: www.cwu.edu/student-life/wildcat-pantry/resources.php

Contact: wildcatpantry@cwu.edu | 509-963-1856