



# REPORT

*From the office of the...*

## Food Collective Centre Director

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TO: Members of the Executive Board  
FROM: Oliver Chow  
SUBJECT: Food Collective Centre Report 7  
DATE: Tuesday, April 1, 2020

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### **YEARPLAN UPDATE**

With the ongoing situation regarding COVID-19 and the closure of the MSU, most of our plans for March and April were cut short. With that in mind, this report will reflect more so on the year as a whole, our failures and successes, and where we hope to elevate the service next year.

My current task is to help transition next year's director into their role, and aid in the process of hiring executive members for next year's team. This will be more of a challenge given the inability to meet in person, but I am sure that we will still be able to interview online and choose a cohesive, competent team to continue the work of the FCC.

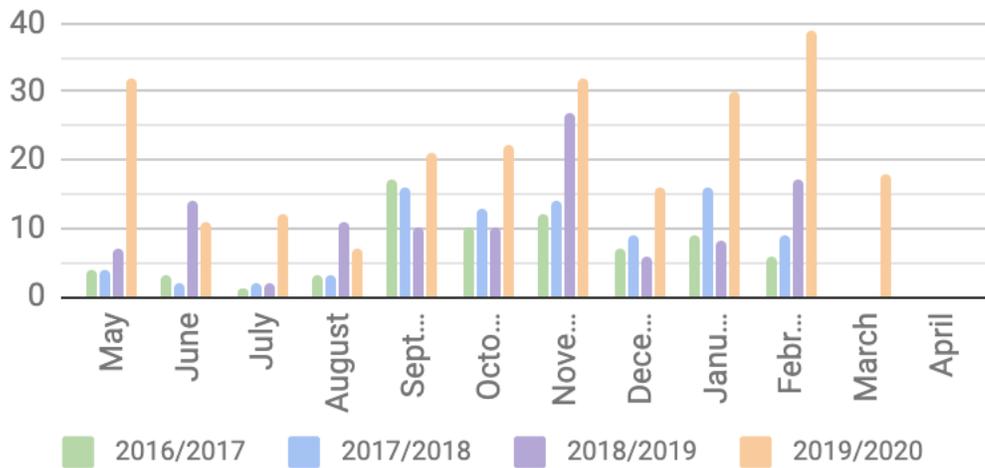
### **SERVICE USAGE**

#### Emergency Food Support Services: Lockers of Love and the Food Collective Centre Space (aka the food bank)

Lockers of Love has consistently been our most highly utilized service. Not only this, but our numbers show us that there has been a very high increase in the number of users when compared to even just last year. I think that this has been due to a number of factors: new promotional materials, increased number of events and campaigns, and new partnerships with other MSU services. This has allowed us to share this program with a larger population of individuals. This is what spurred the need for a change, or expansion, of our program. Working with our partners over at the Campus store, I have been able to double the number of operational lockers for our program, including lockers in different areas around campus in an attempt to make it better catered towards those who seek food assistance.

# Lockers of Love Usage

January 2016 - July 2019

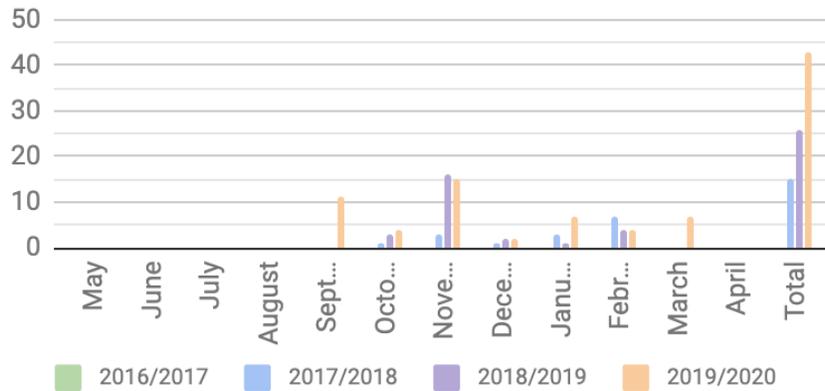


Here we can see just how much more the program has accessed in 2019/2020 (**240 total orders**) when compared to 2018/2019 (**112 total orders**). I would not consider higher numbers to necessarily be a sign of success – our goal is not to have more students be food insecure and have to require emergency food assistance. However, more usage of our program may lean toward the notion that more people, who already were food insecure, have heard of programs and are able to reach out for help. This is an aspect of our service that we hope to continue to expand and develop to fit the needs of more folks in our community.

The Food Collective Centre Space is our physical food bank where individuals can come in to pick up whatever items they require. While our numbers of the FCC space are generally lower, this may be due to the fact that some folks aren't comfortable with coming in person, or the hours are not as suitable to their schedules. It is also more difficult to track numbers in our space, because we don't have a computerized system. This is a something to work on in future years, as this data can be important for us to see how we can improve.

## FCC Space Usage

January 2016 - July 2019



### Good Food Box

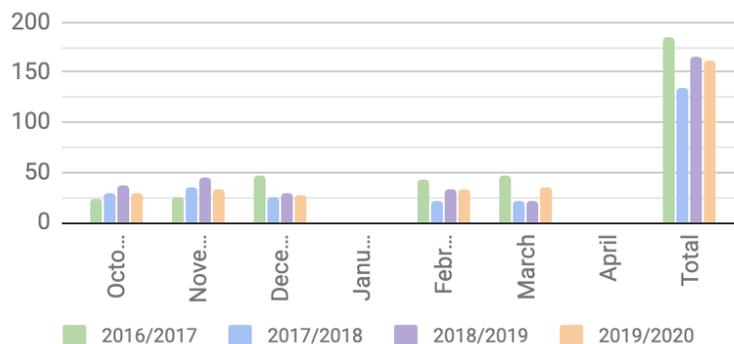
Our Good Food Box program has remained quite consistent over the years, even with the addition of a delivery service in 2018/2019 (**165 total orders**), and its subsequent removal in 2019/2020 (**162 total orders**).

Our program is run only with the support of Grace Lutheran Church and their established produce provider. They will be stopping their program within the next couple years as a result of some internal structuring, and so, this will be something to discuss and we plan for the future of the FCC and this program.

This program has received some great feedback, from students, staff, and other members of our community who choose to purchase a GFB. Ideally, we would be able to keep it going as a tradition that the FCC holds, as a means of providing fresh fruits and produce at a highly subsidized cost for folks in our community.

## Good Food Box Orders

January 2016 - July 2019



## **PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES**

Since my last report, we have only had one event, our final Ladles of Love for the year. This event has been going on for 1.5 years with the FCC now, and the support for this event has been great since its inception. The event only runs with the generous help of the TwelvEighty and their staff, who allow us to use The Grind and also prepare the soup for us. This partnership has been a new cost that we have integrated well into our budget, and hopefully is one that can continue into future years as a means of giving a little back to the student body, while also promoting our service in general with the hopes that those who need a little extra help are aware of the FCC and it's other food support programming.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES**

We had so much planned for the rest of March and April, so it breaks my heart that all the planning and anticipation for the end of the year was cut short. So, I will talk a little about what we were hoping to do with our last couple months, why, and how I hope it will continue into future years.

### Food Security Week

This is an event/campaign that has been done in the past, and is one that I was hoping to revamp a little this year. I wholeheartedly agree that a week dedicated to raising awareness and educating others on the importance of food security and some of the barriers that folks face when trying to access food, but engagement and interest has always been an issue. This year, we tried to combine elements of a food drive (from our previously held "Feed the Bus" campaign) with our week, where we were going to decorate a campus cruiser as a hippo and have students donate non-perishables in exchange for a free coffee. We would have had a table set up with some education materials, our brochures, stickers, etc. and used this as an opportunity to engage with the student body and talk a little bit about what the FCC is, where we are, and what we do. We were also going to have a special Community Kitchen workshop during this week, and potentially a planting workshop where students would be able to bring home their own seeds for sprouting. We are disappointed that these ideas could not be brought to life this year, but I have faith that next year, some of these ideas will be able to be incorporated and executed.

### Food on the Move

This is an event that we do every year, in which we place donation bins around campus and the Hamilton community for students to donate their non-perishables as they move out of residences and student housing. We were hoping to partner with some other groups on campus who also run end-of-year food drives in order to work together to support the FCC and also have less overlap and miscommunication. This would have been very helpful in stocking the FCC for the summer months, where our Lockers of Love program is up and running.

Study, Snack, Support

This week-long event is something that I was very much looking forward to hosting. Our Fall exam season rendition of this event went amazing: there was so much student interest and dedication by the exec team to put it together. The donations that we received from other MSU partners really helped by providing us with free end-of-day food donations that otherwise would have been wasted. We received great feedback about this event from students who participated last year, and so we were really hoping to have an even better turnout for the Winter exam season. Last term, we only had snacks and drinks available, but I was hoping to include more aspects of wellness and de-stressing during this event this time around. Last year, we invited a group to host some meditation and mindfulness sessions – hopefully this is something that can be kept in mind for next year when these events are run.

**BUDGET**

Lockers supplies	\$29.36
Ladles of Love Soup - March	\$262.50
<b>TOTAL SPENT IN LINE</b>	<b>\$1,456.27</b>
<b>REMAINING IN LINE</b>	<b>\$843.73</b>

<b>TOTALS</b>	
<b>TOTAL BUDGETED DISCRETIONARY SPENDING</b>	\$6,100.00
<b>TOTAL ACTUAL DISCRETIONARY SPENDING</b>	\$3,927.54
<b>REMAINING DISCRETIONARY SPENDING</b>	\$2,172.46

We were quite on track to use our budget in its entirety by the end of the term, as we had a couple big events coming up and some volunteer/exec appreciation plans in the works. I would say that our budget has been adequate in executing all our plans for this year, and that even though we had to shift some money around in order to plan the Ladles of Love events, it was totally worth it.

Another big aspect of our budget line that needs to be acknowledged are the donations that we received:

- Residence Life Musical Donation - \$1391.25
- Alumni Association Donation - \$113
- University Technology Services Donation \$245
- Office of the Registrar Donation \$300

These are just the monetary donations we have received; we have also had many generous groups and individuals donate non-perishables and other hygiene products to our space. This is also a result of our increased presence on campus as the food security resource, and I'm so glad to see how we've grown and how the community has been so generous.

The monetary donations will be carried over into our budget line for future years until we are able to move into our new space. This is anticipated for Fall 2021, and the plan is to use the money for something more sustainable, like a fridge, where we would then be able to provide refrigerated options for individuals to access as well.

### **VOLUNTEERS**

We are extremely thankful for all of our volunteers and all the hard work they put in. We were unable to have an end of year appreciation event for them, so hopefully when things settle down we will be able to have some sort of delayed-appreciation. Our service could not run without their hard work and dedication.

### **CURRENT CHALLENGES**

Transitioning our new director into their role and helping manage the hiring of their executive team for next year. With the ongoing pandemic, staying home means not being able to meet in person. This poses some challenges, but also the opportunity to start problem-solving – a constant requirement of the job.

### **SUCSESSES**

The service was a success this year, and I could not have done it without my amazing team of execs and all the volunteers. While there were no major changes this year, like last year when we had a re-branding, I still think that we have grown as a service to better suit the needs of our communities. We expanded our locker program, re-organized the FCC space, held more Ladles of Love events, received more donations from community partners, had donated end-of-day food for our Study Snack Support event, and managed to execute Good Food Box distributions without the help of a delivery service, just to name a few specific items.

I am so, so thankful for my team this year, and I wish them the best of luck in the future with wherever they choose to be. It has been a privilege to be in this role, and I will forever be grateful for the opportunity to be 2019/2020 Director of the Food Collective Centre.