



REPORT

From the office of the...

MAC Bread Bin

TO: Members of the Executive Board
FROM: Ellen Zhuo Luan Xu
SUBJECT: MAC Bread Bin Report #2
DATE: November 21, 2013

UPDATE

MAC Bread Bin has recently finished their annual Trick or Eat event, which was much of our focus for the month of October. Currently we are hoping to reach out to more students in need which will increase our voucher requests. Also we are planning to bring awareness of our Good Food Box program and its cooking workshops into the student body.

SERVICE USAGE

We haven't been receiving as many voucher requests as before, only 7 vouchers were distributed in the last month. Monthly Good Food Box orders are running smoothly and we have hired a new coordinator. In terms of the volunteers' role in voucher distribution, a new system was introduced to maintain volunteer responsibility. Shifts are assigned to volunteers so different individuals will be responsible for vouchers, resulting in contribute from everyone.

PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

MACBreadBin, in partnership with Meal Exchange, a national organization that targets hunger issues, held our annual Trick or Eat event on October 29th. This year's date is different from that of previous years due to the fall reading break. We sent out teams of volunteers into Hamilton neighbourhoods surrounding McMaster to collect non-perishables for our own shelves and Living Rock Ministeries. 90% of the food was donated to Living Rock, a Hamilton food bank and shelter, while we kept 10% for MACBreadBin applicants. We had around 150 participants and raised 3508 pounds of food. Additionally, students who weren't able to participate also dropped off some donations.

UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

Due to low voucher requests lately, we are hoping to promote the service so it can reach out to more students in need. Ideas include making cards to be distributed in the Student Wellness Center, printing a window poster, booking informational tables in MUSC, and expanding our social media audience.

We were recently contacted by Free Food For MAC, a movement initiated by students in the Sustainability 3A03 course where a blog was started to broadcast leftover foods for students in need. Because the students will be graduating this year,

MACBreadBin will incorporate a new volunteer executive position responsible for the blog starting next year. More brainstorming on improving and modifying the service will be discussed in future meetings.

With regards to the cooking workshop in collaboration with Teaching Garden and Farmstand, it will be difficult to host the event on-campus due to regulations with Paradise Catering. Grace Lutheran Church runs monthly cooking classes on Tuesday evenings for free which seem like a good option at the moment. Since not too many people know about it, we are thinking of promoting it more.

BUDGET

Trick or Eat was an expensive event since we purchased \$200 of pizza for participants and also spent \$200 on Union Market coffee sleeves. We are hoping to receive funding from Titles' "Round Up" event and also from sponsors for Feed the Bus.

CURRENT CHALLENGES

With midterms and event season coming soon, it is difficult to ensure volunteer commitment. Less volunteers have been showing up to meetings lately. To retain volunteers, we are currently holding mandatory BreadBin meetings to discuss important matters and also require that a reminder email must be provided if one is unable to attend.

SUCSESSES

Trick or Eat was very successful, the registration process ran smoothly and waiver forms were collected from all participants. Also, we didn't have to weigh the food ourselves using industrial scales and instead convinced UPS to measure it accurately for us. Overall we had approximately 150 participants and raised a total number of 3508 lbs of food for Living Rock Ministeries. Until this week, we were able to retain volunteer commitment quite well and many were diligently involved in promoting Trick or Eat.

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