



# REPORT

*From the office of the...*

## MAC Bread Bin

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TO: Members of the Executive Board  
FROM: Gillian England-Mason  
SUBJECT: MAC Bread Bin Report 1  
DATE: Friday, October 19, 2012

### UPDATE

MAC Bread Bin has addressed many new concerns since opening at the beginning of the academic term. We've been focusing on promoting our service, raising awareness about hunger issues on campus, and training our new volunteers and executive team. Many of our past staff and volunteers graduated last year, so we spent the first month familiarizing our new team with all our programs and procedures. This month we've been focusing on planning our first charitable event of the semester, Trick or Eat. Overall, we are happy to report that everything is functioning quite well.

### SERVICE USAGE

The MAC Bread Bin general volunteer team has filled over 40 food voucher requests since the beginning of the team. This is an average of approximately 5-7 vouchers a week. At the beginning of the year request volume per week was at the higher end of this range, and now request levels have begun to normalize. Regardless of volume, we have been focusing on filling our food voucher requests in a systematic and timely manner. Every request is filled within a maximum of 72 hours. This year we have served clients with various situations and dietary needs. This includes helping individuals with dependents, allergies, specific diet requirements, and disorders like diabetes. We attempt to educate our volunteers about these circumstances in order to better meet client needs.

### PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

On top of consistently filling voucher requests, we have begun some of our healthy eating initiatives. We have been incorporating fresh local produce from the Community Garden into our vouchers since the middle of the summer. This produce is received on a weekly basis from the Community Garden team, and so far recipients of it have had nothing but extremely positive feedback in regards to receiving it in their vouchers.

We've also had two months worth of successful Good Food Box deliveries. We have been working on promoting this program this year and hope to be able to offer these subsidized produce boxes to even more students this year. We are currently working on designing an online ordering method for these to help make the process accessible to a greater array of students.

We've also collaborated with SHEC on their cooking magazine. Our input focuses on healthy and appetizing meals made using products from our Good Food Boxes and vouchers. This issue will be printed and released soon. We shall be leaving copies of these in target areas and including them in our vouchers.

Other recent events we have participated in over the course of the last month and a half are: volunteer recruitment and service promotion at Clubsfest, a food-drive during Open Streets McMaster, and an information table and Trick or Eat promotion at Night Market.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

We are currently preparing for our event, 'Trick or Eat', which is organized by our Meal Exchange group and MAC Bread Bin. This is an event where we send volunteer groups into the Hamilton community on Halloween afternoon to collect canned food donations for local food banks. This year we will be donating our proceeds to Living Rock, a Hamilton food bank and shelter.

We also have an upcoming cooking class that is being offered to any interested students. This class will be run in the late afternoon at Grace Lutheran Church on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012. If this cooking class is successful we shall continue to offer cooking classes from this location on a monthly basis.

#### BUDGET

As of yet we haven't used much of our budget, and that won't change much even as we draw nearer to our event 'Trick or Eat'. We have been able to approach many local organizations and receive donations for many of the things that we've required for various programs and for this upcoming event. We also recently a few monetary donations from a few McMaster groups, and hope to use these to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of our services.

#### CURRENT CHALLENGES

With the recent transferring of MSU website providers we've been experiencing problems with our online voucher service. Certain users have had difficulties logging in and submitting the survey. In order to compensate for any growing pains we also offer students an email option, where they can submit a Microsoft Word document version of the voucher request form. This adaptation has helped their be little to no inconvenience to our clients.

#### SUCSESSES

We are extremely proud of our strong start this year. We have been highly involved in a variety of activities across campus and within the community. We hope to maintain this level of visibility throughout the year.

#### OTHER

MAC Bread Bin has no other new business to report on at this time.