end of semester report
spring 2013

Executive Director: Ben Simon
Director of Communications: Hannah Wolfe
Director of Member Support: Ben Chesler
Special Projects Coordinator: Becca Kagan
Director of Expansion: Lauren Behgam

Expansion Coordinators: Lauren Behgam, Nick Murphy, Andrew Bresee, Faith Jackson and Meghan Scarry.

Board of Directors: Robert Grimm, Nam Pham, Jeremy Kugel, Ben Chesler, Ben Simon, Mia Zavalij
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Note from the Executive Director  
2. This Semester at a Glance  
3. Expansion Summary  
4. New Chapters  
   a. Williams College  
   b. Dominican University  
   c. George Washington University  
   d. Brigham Young University (BYU)  
   e. Southeast Missouri State University  
   f. York College  
   g. American University  
   h. Whittier College  
   i. University of California, Davis  
   j. University of Missouri  
   k. Grinnell College  
5. Member Support Summary  
6. Existing Chapters  
   a. Brown University  
   b. University of Maryland, College Park  
   c. Providence College  
   d. University of Texas, Austin  
   e. Scripps/Harvey Mudd/Claremont McKenna College  
   f. University of Michigan  
   g. Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT)  
   h. Pomona College  
   i. University of California, Berkeley  
7. Grant Reports  
8. National Partnerships  
9. Awards  
10. Press
I. Note from the executive director

The 2012-13 school year brought tremendous growth for Food Recovery Network. We began the fall 2012 semester with chapters at four colleges, and ended spring 2013 at an astounding 22 campuses. In total, we donated over 45,000 pounds of food from 30 campus dining halls to 42 nonprofits and shelters feeding over 36,000 meals to hungry Americans.

We gained our official 501(c)(3) nonprofit status, and recruited an awesome advisory board with experts in the field who have helped us navigate as a young organization. We built a strong brand by redesigning our logo, launching a new website, distributing several hundred hoodies and shirts donated by TheHungerSite.com to our volunteers, and growing our Facebook community from 200 to over 5,500 followers!

We also garnered a lot of news coverage and recognition, helping to elevate the status of the whole food recovery movement and spreading the message that surplus food should feed people, not landfills. We received our first national television exposure with two appearances on MSNBC’s Melissa Harris-Perry. We were also featured in Voice of America, and the front page of the Washington Post Food section. Guidestar named FRN number one on its list of the most successful nonprofits started by students, and I had the honor of being chosen as one of the Top 10 Social Entrepreneurs of 2012 by ABC News and Univision.

Since we began, Food Recovery Network has been run almost entirely on student volunteerism. Now, with a $150,000 grant from Sodexo Foundation and significant contributions by others, we are transitioning into a professional nonprofit. We will be hiring full-time staff to grow this movement, and settling into a workspace at the University of Maryland, College Park.

We also took important steps to lay the foundation for exponential growth in the years to come. We signed a partnership with The Campus Kitchens Project, a similar nonprofit with a different and complementary model of campus food recovery, to work together on conferences and trainings, and to share resources, data, and best practices. We also formed a national partnership
with Bon Appetit Management Company, and are in the process of finalizing a similar national partnership with Sodexo, Inc. Together, Sodexo and Bon Appetit manage campus dining for over 900 colleges across America. The food donation partnerships are going to dramatically accelerate our expansion, as students will no longer have to persuade their campus dining manager to participate in FRN – it will be their national corporate policy.

Looking ahead, we plan to have at least 75 chapters by the end of the 2013-14 school year that have donated over 310,000 pounds of food. This is part of our larger strategic vision to be at 1,000 campuses and donate 10 million pounds of food to hungry Americans by December 31, 2017. We hope to do this by securing national partnerships with all major college food service providers and by validating an earned income model in the next year.

Food Recovery Network got its name from you, our network. It is you – our community of volunteers, partners, donors, and supporters – who have been responsible for the viral growth that turned a simple idea into one of America’s fastest growing student movements. Everybody has a role to play, and I look forward to continuing to fight alongside you in the battle against hunger and food waste in America.

Ben Simon
Executive Director, FRN
II. This Semester At a Glance

- Campuses with FRN chapters: 22
- Pounds of Food Recovered: 45,061
- Number of Dining Halls Collected From: 30
- Number of Restaurants and Other Venues Collected From: 29
- Number of Shelters Donated To: 42
- Number of student volunteers: 468
- Total Student Volunteer Hours: 1866
III. Expansion Summary

Spring of 2013 was an incredibly exciting time for the Food Recovery Network Expansion Team. Director of Expansion, Lauren Behgam, led a dream team of five Expansion Coordinators who mentored and supported students through the process of starting a Food Recovery Network chapter on their campus. Expansion Coordinators Andrew Bresee, Faith Jackson, Rebecca Kagan, Nicholas Murphy, and Meghan Scarry collectively started eleven new chapters this semester. Those new chapters are:

- American University
- Brigham Young University
- Dominican University
- George Washington University
- Grinnell College
- Southeast Missouri State University
- University of Missouri
- University of California, Davis
- Williams College
- Whittier College
- York College

These eleven chapters are just a small amount of the 153 new chapter applications Food Recovery Network received through its website this semester. This record number of new chapter applications is a reflection of Food Recovery Network’s increasing national presence and is an exciting sign for the future growth of the organization. Due to the increase in student interest in FRN, the Expansion team experimented with new methods to work with students. Food Recovery Network organized its first ever “Info Sessions,” which were conference calls with expansion coordinators and interested students to discuss how to start a chapter and answer any questions students may have. Expansion coordinators also no longer have a regional focus, because student interest in FRN was not spread equally across the country.

The semester was successful for expansion, with more than double the amount of chapters the organization had at the end of 2012. The increase in growth from ten chapters to twenty-two chapters is a reflection of the growing movement to end food waste and hunger. Looking ahead, knowledge and skills gained during the spring semester will be instrumental in creating more chapters in the future to join the national movement to fight waste and feed people.
IV. New Chapters
General Information

Name of Program: FRN @ Williams
Date Founded: April, 2013
Founding Students: Katherine Arellano
Date They Joined FRN: April, 2013
Spring 2013 Contact Person: Katherine Arellano
Total Pounds of Food Recovered To Date: 200

By The Numbers (Spring 2013)

Pounds of Food Recovered: 200
Number of Dining Halls Collected From: 1
Number of Restaurants and Other Venues Collected From: N/A
Number of Shelters Donated To: 1
Number of student volunteers: 10
Total Student Volunteer Hours: 50
Money Spent: N/A
General Information

Name of Program: DU Food Recovery Network
Date Founded: April, 2013
Founding Students: Caitlin O’Brien
Date They Joined FRN: April, 2013
Spring 2013 Contact Person: Caitlin O’Brien
Total Pounds of Food Recovered To Date: 39

By The Numbers (Spring 2013)

Pounds of Food Recovered: 39
Number of Dining Halls Collected From: 1
Number of Restaurants and Other Venues Collected From: N/A
Number of Shelters Donated To: 1
Number of student volunteers: 10
Total Student Volunteer Hours: 4
Money Spent: N/A
George Washington University (GWU)

General Information

Name of Program: FRN @ GWU
Date Founded: April, 2013
Founding Students: Najeff Waseem
Date They Joined FRN: April, 2013
Spring 2013 Contact Person: Najeff Waseem
Total Pounds of Food Recovered To Date: 180

By The Numbers (Spring 2013)

Pounds of Food Recovered: 180
Number of Dining Halls Collected From: 1
Number of Restaurants and Other Venues Collected From: N/A
Number of Shelters Donated To: 1
Number of student volunteers: 15
Total Student Volunteer Hours: 6
Money Spent: N/A
General Information

- Name of Program: N/A
- Date Founded: May, 2013
- Founding Students: Megan Murff
- Date They Joined FRN: May, 2013
- Spring 2013 Contact Person: Megan Murff
- Total Pounds of Food Recovered To Date: 39

By The Numbers (Spring 2013)

- Pounds of Food Recovered: N/A
- Number of Dining Halls Collected From: N/A
- Number of Restaurants and Other Venues Collected From: N/A
- Number of Shelters Donated To: N/A
- Number of student volunteers: N/A
- Total Student Volunteer Hours: N/A
- Money Spent: N/A
General Information

Name of Program: SEMO Food Alliance
Date Founded: April, 2013
Founding Students: Judith Chapman
Date They Joined FRN: April, 2013
Spring 2013 Contact Person: Judith Chapman
Total Pounds of Food Recovered To Date: 416

By The Numbers (Spring 2013)

Pounds of Food Recovered: 416
Number of Dining Halls Collected From: 1
Number of Restaurants and Other Venues Collected From: N/A
Number of Shelters Donated To: 2
Number of student volunteers: 16
Total Student Volunteer Hours: 28
Money Spent: $87
General Information

Name of Program: York Environmental Society
Date Founded: April, 2013
Founding Students: Brandon Perrone and Eileen Reavey
Date They Joined FRN: April, 2013
Spring 2013 Contact Person: Brandon Perrone
Total Pounds of Food Recovered To Date: 329

By The Numbers (Spring 2013)

Pounds of Food Recovered: 329
Number of Dining Halls Collected From: 1
Number of Restaurants and Other Venues Collected From: N/A
Number of Shelters Donated To: 1
Number of student volunteers: 10
Total Student Volunteer Hours: 28
Money Spent: N/A
General Information

Name of Program: AU FRN
Date Founded: March, 2013
Founding Students: Matt Farrell and Autumn Rauchwerk
Date They Joined FRN: March, 2013
Spring 2013 Contact Person: Matt Farrell and Autumn Rauchwerk
Total Pounds of Food Recovered To Date: N/A

By The Numbers (Spring 2013)

Pounds of Food Recovered: N/A
Number of Dining Halls Collected From: 1
Number of Restaurants and Other Venues Collected From: N/A
Number of Shelters Donated To: 2
Number of student volunteers: 20
Total Student Volunteer Hours: 30
Money Spent: N/A
General Information

Name of Program: Poets Food Recovery Network
Date Founded: February, 2013
Founding Students: Amanda Edwards
Date They Joined FRN: February, 2013
Spring 2013 Contact Person: Amanda Edwards
Total Pounds of Food Recovered To Date: 1,396

By The Numbers (Spring 2013)

Pounds of Food Recovered: 1,396
Number of Dining Halls Collected From: 1
Number of Restaurants and Other Venues Collected From: N/A
Number of Shelters Donated To: 1
Number of student volunteers: 12
Total Student Volunteer Hours: N/A
Money Spent: $456
General Information

Name of Program: UC-Davis Food Recovery Network
Date Founded: March, 2013
Founding Students: Stefanie Scott
Date They Joined FRN: March, 2013
Spring 2013 Contact Person: Stefanie Scott
Total Pounds of Food Recovered To Date: 303

By The Numbers (Spring 2013)

Pounds of Food Recovered: 303
Number of Dining Halls Collected From: 2
Number of Restaurants and Other Venues Collected From: N/A
Number of Shelters Donated To: 3
Number of student volunteers: 30
Total Student Volunteer Hours: 24
Money Spent: N/A
University of Missouri

General Information

Name of Program: Food Recovery Network - University of Missouri
Date Founded: April, 2013
Founding Students: Joe Plevels
Date They Joined FRN: April, 2013
Spring 2013 Contact Person: Joe Plevel
Total Pounds of Food Recovered To Date: 745

By The Numbers (Spring 2013)

Pounds of Food Recovered: 745
Number of Dining Halls Collected From: 1
Number of Restaurants and Other Venues Collected From: N/A
Number of Shelters Donated To: 1
Number of student volunteers: 27
Total Student Volunteer Hours: 29
Money Spent: $25
General Information

Name of Program: FRN @ Grinnell
Date Founded: May 2013
Founding Students: Dylan Bondy
Date They Joined FRN: May, 2013
Spring 2013 Contact Person: Dylan Bondy
Total Pounds of Food Recovered To Date: 173

By The Numbers (Spring 2013)

Pounds of Food Recovered: 173
Number of Dining Halls Collected From: 1
Number of Restaurants and Other Venues Collected From: N/A
Number of Shelters Donated To: 1
Number of student volunteers: 5
Total Student Volunteer Hours: 10
Money Spent: N/A
V. Member Support Summary

This year was a trial period for member support, as we experimented with different ways to support our chapters in the work they are doing. We hosted video conferences with our chapters, to help facilitate the sharing of best practices and to build the national movement. We also collected instructional videos from chapters, to serve as resources for programs that are just getting off the ground. As we move forward, we hope to build on these resources that we offer to chapters, with plans for an online platform to facilitate resource sharing and a national conference to unify our movement and provide more in-depth training to our student leaders.
VI. EXISTING Chapters

All of our existing chapters continued to grow, and we look forward to continuing to support them as they recover more food!
General Information

**Name of Program:** FRN @ Brown  
**Date Founded:** November, 2011  
**Founding Students:** Benjamin Chesler, Shelby Wilson, Sara Winnick  
**Date They Joined FRN:** October 25, 2012  
**Spring 2013 Contact Person:** Renata Robles  
**Total Pounds of Food Recovered To Date:** 21/263

By The Numbers (Spring 2013)

**Pounds of Food Recovered:** 5,763  
**Number of Dining Halls Collected From:** 5  
**Number of Restaurants and Other Venues Collected From:** 1  
**Number of Shelters Donated To:** 4  
**Number of student volunteers:** 80  
**Total Student Volunteer Hours:** 375  
**Money Spent:** $400
General Information

Name of Program: FRN @ UMD
Date Founded: September, 2011
Founding Students: Ben Simon, Mia Zavalij, and Andrew Bresee
Date They Joined FRN: November 4, 2012
Spring 2013 Contact Person: Mia Zavalij
Total Pounds of Food Recovered To Date: 76,675

By The Numbers (Spring 2013)

Pounds of Food Recovered: 17,000
Number of Dining Halls Collected From: 1
Number of Restaurants and Other Venues Collected From: 10
Number of Shelters Donated To: 3
Number of student volunteers: 100
Total Student Volunteer Hours: 450
Money Spent: $1,850
General Information

Name of Program: Friar Food Rescue
Date Founded: October 12, 2012
Founding Students: Nick Canessa and David O'Connor
Date They Joined FRN: November 29, 2012
Spring 2013 Contact Person: Kara Komprathoum
Total Pounds of Food Recovered To Date: 1,819

By The Numbers (Spring 2013)

Pounds of Food Recovered: 500
Number of Dining Halls Collected From: 1
Number of Restaurants and Other Venues Collected From: N/A
Number of Shelters Donated To: 2
Number of student volunteers: 5
Total Student Volunteer Hours: 40
Money Spent: N/A
General Information

Name of Program: FRN @ UT-Austin
Date Founded: September 1, 2012
Founding Students: Parker McCorkle
Date They Joined FRN: November 26, 2012
Spring 2013 Contact Person: Parker McCorkle
Total Pounds of Food Recovered To Date: 3,225

By The Numbers (Spring 2013)

Pounds of Food Recovered: 2,400
Number of Dining Halls Collected From: N/A
Number of Restaurants and Other Venues Collected From: 15
Number of Shelters Donated To: 5
Number of student volunteers: 30
Total Student Volunteer Hours: 50
Money Spent: $230
This chapter has brought together three of the Claremont Schools under one food recovery program! Students recover food from all three dining halls and bring it down to a shelter in the community. They have recently revamped their program, and are currently working on quantifying their impact.

General Information

- **Name of Program:** FRN @ Scripps/Harvey Mudd/Claremont McKenna
- **Date Founded:** 2008
- **Founding Students:** N/A
- **Date They Joined FRN:** October 29, 2012
- **Spring 2013 Contact Person:** Lauren Mitten
- **Total Pounds of Food Recovered To Date:** 2,500

By The Numbers (Spring 2013)

- **Pounds of Food Recovered:** 2,500
- **Number of Dining Halls Collected From:** 3
- **Number of Restaurants and Other Venues Collected From:** N/A
- **Number of Shelters Donated To:** 1
- **Number of student volunteers:** 12
- **Total Student Volunteer Hours:** 120
- **Money Spent:** $110
General Information

Name of Program: FRN @ Michigan
Date Founded: Fall, 2012
Founding Students: Dana Del Vecchio
Date They Joined FRN: November 13, 2012
Spring 2013 Contact Person: Dana Del Vecchio
Total Pounds of Food Recovered To Date: 2,333

By The Numbers (Spring 2013)

Pounds of Food Recovered: 2,333
Number of Dining Halls Collected From: 1
Number of Restaurants and Other Venues Collected From: N/A
Number of Shelters Donated To: 1
Number of student volunteers: 20
Total Student Volunteer Hours: 200
Money Spent: $2,000
Rochester Institute of Technology

General Information

Name of Program: FRN @ RIT
Date Founded: Fall, 2012
Founding Students: Wai Hon Chan
Date They Joined FRN: December 14, 2012
Spring 2013 Contact Person: Wai Hon Chan
Total Pounds of Food Recovered To Date: 5,000

By The Numbers (Spring 2013)

Pounds of Food Recovered: 4,500
Number of Dining Halls Collected From: 4
Number of Restaurants and Other Venues Collected From: N/A
Number of Shelters Donated To: 4
Number of student volunteers: 20
Total Student Volunteer Hours: 200
Money Spent: $600
General Information

Name of Program: FRN @Pomona
Date Founded: Spring, 2009
Founding Students: Tammy Zhu
Date They Joined FRN: October 29, 2012
Spring 2013 Contact Person: Nick Murphy
Total Pounds of Food Recovered To Date: 37,589

By The Numbers (Spring 2013)

Pounds of Food Recovered: 4,284
Number of Dining Halls Collected From: 2
Number of Restaurants and Other Venues Collected From: N/A
Number of Shelters Donated To: 1
Number of student volunteers: 16
Total Student Volunteer Hours: 200
Money Spent: $350
**General Information**

- **Name of Program:** Bare Abundance
- **Date Founded:** Fall, 2011
- **Founding Students:** Komal Ahmad
- **Date They Joined FRN:** October 29, 2012
- **Spring 2013 Contact Person:** Chloe Tsang
- **Total Pounds of Food Recovered To Date:** 12,062

**By The Numbers (Spring 2013)**

- **Pounds of Food Recovered:** 2,000
- **Number of Dining Halls Collected From:** 2
- **Number of Restaurants and Other Venues Collected From:** 3
- **Number of Shelters Donated To:** 7
- **Number of student volunteers:** 30
- **Total Student Volunteer Hours:** N/A
- **Money Spent:** $30
VII. Grant Report

One of the resources that we provide to members of FRN is grants of up to $500 to cover start-up expenses for a new chapter or an expansion project for an existing chapter. These grants are not meant to be a source of sustainable funding, but they do help lower the barriers to starting a new food recovery program. This year, we gave out five grants for a total of $2800.05

RIT – Awarded $357.87
GWU – Awarded $194.25
Brown – Awarded $357.87
Williams College – Awarded $357.87
Whittier – Awarded $357.87
Michigan – Awarded $1233.88*

*We gave Michigan a one-time grant of larger than $500 because of their need for refrigerated storage space, which was not feasible without a larger grant.
VIII. National Partnerships

In addition to working with individual schools, FRN developed crucial new partnerships that will help us bring food recovery to many new campuses. FRN is becoming leading experts in food recovery on college campuses, and many national organizations are eager to use our knowledge to help colleges become more sustainable by bringing food recovery to campuses across the country.

Bon Appetit

This spring, we formalized a partnership with Bon Appetit Management Company, with a goal of increasing the amount of food recovered on campuses where Bon Appetit operates the dining halls. Through this partnership, we have already been able to expedite the creation of three food recovery programs. This partnership has two main components:

1. Develop a handbook for Dining Service Directors on how to start a food recovery program in their dining hall.

2. Work with Bon Appetit Regional Fellows at individual schools where students are interested in starting food recovery programs.

Sodexo

In May, FRN signed a groundbreaking agreement with Sodexo that will allow FRN to recover food from the more than 850 college dining halls across the country that are operated by Sodexo. We hope that this partnership will greatly expand FRN’s network in the next year, and that other private food service providers will follow suit in partnering with FRN to reduce their food waste and help feed people.
IX. Awards

FRN was honored to receive a number of awards this semester, recognizing the important work we are doing to reduce waste and feed people. Some of the major awards are listed below.

- Recognized as a Top 20 Student-Run Nonprofit by Guidestar
- Received the Outstanding Innovation Award from the Dell Social Innovation Challenge
- Our founder, Ben Simon, is a 2012 Stephen J. Brady STOP Hunger regional scholar
- Ben Simon recognized by Univision and ABC as one of their Top 10 Social Entrepreneurs of 2012.
- Grand Prize Winner of Ashoka’s Banking on Youth Competition
For such a young organization, FRN received a substantial amount of national press throughout the spring 2013 semester.

The first and possibly most impactful coverage of FRN came from MSNBC’s weekend program hosted by Melissa Harris-Perry on January 26. After catching wind of FRN’s mission Harris-Perry featured FRN in her weekly Foot Soldier segment, which highlights a variety of inspiring work by changemakers from around the country. For this feature, FRN Executive Director Ben Simon was invited on the show for a brief interview which sparked enormous interest in FRN on a national scale, drawing in nearly a thousand dollars in donations and over 20 new FRN chapter applications. After seeing such a positive response, Harris-Perry invited Simon back for a follow-up interview on March 2nd.

In late February, FRN was featured by Food Tank: the Food Think Tank, a food movement news organization founded just over 4 months ago by Danielle Nierenberg and Ellen Gustafson. Food Tank covered FRN on February 27, featuring an interview with Director of Member Support Ben Chesler. Food Tank has continued to serve as an ally to FRN, highlighting FRN in a blog by Nierenberg on Huffington Post on April 15 and again featuring FRN in an article on student initiatives tackling food waste on April 21.

Mid-March, the UMD chapter of FRN was joined on a recovery by a film crew from Voice of America, the official external broadcast institution of the U.S. federal government whose news stories are translated and broadcast in 43 languages world-wide. Voice of America filmed UMD’s FRN chapter in action recovering food from their dining hall. The UMD chapter of FRN was also featured in an article in the Washington Post.

FRN was also referenced in a press release by the EPA on April 22. The press release announced the addition of 23 new universities to the EPA’s Food Recovery Challenge, an initiative to reduce food waste on college campuses which FRN has formally endorsed.

FRN has also collaborated with two of its latest partnerships on publicity efforts, highlighting the partnership with Bon Appetit Management Company and a recent grant by the Sodexo Foundation.

On a local level, FRN’s student chapters have continuously received accolades from their communities on- and off-campus: Pomona College’s chapter was covered by the Sacramento Bee and the LA Times; the York College chapter in PA was covered by the York Dispatch; and the UT Austin chapter was highlighted by the Statesman.com, to name a few.