Making a Lasting Impact with Saving Grace

Sidney Palea & Paul Khoury
SOC 425
Creighton University
Food Insecurity & How We Relate

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines food insecurity as a lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy lifestyle. Food insecurity is different from hunger, a common misunderstanding for the public, where HUNGER refers to a personal, physical sensation of discomfort, while FOOD INSECURITY refers to a lack of available financial resources for food at the level of the household.

As future medical professionals, we understand the lasting impact food insecurity has on our vulnerable populations across the nation and the rest of the world. This is one step to protecting the health, holistically, in our future generations we will soon care for.
Problems to Solve

1. EDUCATION--
   Educating the public, both in vulnerable populations who need the help and the outer community, on what food injustice is, the effects it can have on the affected populations and their overall health and well-being, and the steps we can take to help those in need.

2. ADDING SUPPORT--
   Saving Grace Perishable Food Rescue is still a fairly new program, and with its growth over the last few years and its many food donors thus far, we wanted to contribute to their mission in correcting the food injustice situations nearby with the local community support we have access to, especially as Creighton students.
Some Statistics

- **ONE in FIVE** Omaha children may go to sleep hungry every night
- One in seven people in **DOUGLAS COUNTY** are food insecure
- The largest contributor to landfill waste is **FOOD**
- Primary reason **26% of PRODUCE** is wasted before being shelved is cosmetical
- **40%** of all food in the U.S. is wasted
Saving Grace Perishable Food Rescue: Mission
Saving Grace Perishable Food Rescue: Work Being Done

- October 2013 - End of 2017: Saving Grace has rescued 2,036,279 pounds of food
- 1.018 tons of food waste kept out of area landfills
- Over $3.5 million dollars worth of food rescued and distributed
- Partnered with over 70 organizations. 35 of which are the recipients
- Increased number of meals provided from 2016 to 2017 by 17%
- Educate the public, and now the students
BY THE NUMBERS

Saving Grace’s Accomplishments in 2017

- 713,721 meals fed to the hungry
- 10 number of new nonprofit partner agencies
- 2,036,279 lifetime total pounds of food rescued
- $1,234,737.33 value of food rescued
- 270% increase in food rescued compared with 2014
- 11 number of new food donor partners
Our Focus with Saving Grace Perishable Food Rescue

❖ Using the resources we already have and food that’s already available to distribute it to those in need instead of wasting it
❖ Systematically matching daily donations and food rescues to local nonprofits who will benefit from it most
❖ Making an effort to help not only our immediate Omaha community, but helping on a national level as well
❖ Educating the public on ways to lessen food insecurity and how everyone has a hand they can contribute to this movement
❖ Overall, helping the people of our nation reach a healthy lifestyle from the basis of nutrition to the later impacts on mental health and physiological health
Who We Are Working With

The staff members of Saving Grace Perishable Food Rescue who have been our main points of contact and planning

CEO and Founder
Beth Ostdiek Smith

Director of Field and Logistics
Judy Rydberg
Our First Steps with Saving Grace

After initially contacting Judy Rydberg, the Director of Field and Logistics, we learned more about Saving Grace Perishable Food Rescue as an organization and its foundations, scheduled a meeting with her and the CEO, Beth Ostdiek Smith, and began with the planning of the connections we could make within Creighton’s campus and its organizations.
As Creighton students, we have been heavily involved with multiple organizations on campus, including greek life, clubs, and departments of student life, like Campus Recreation and Residence Life. After meeting with Beth and Judy, discussing further into why they do what they do, as well as our backgrounds, we began to brainstorm these potential connections between Creighton and Saving Grace. With our personal connections to a variety of groups and organizations on campus, we discussed the potential for philanthropy involvement, also making connections for future nonprofit groups in need. With each event per organization on campus, there’s also food contributions as leftovers are always available as well.
Part of Our Solution by Involving Our Campus Connections

- Pi Kappa Alpha & PIKE Committee
- Hui ‘O Hawai’i
- Sodexo

Potential Future Connections

- Student Leadership & Involvement Center
- All Greek Life Sororities & Fraternities
- All Clubs & Organizations on Campus
- All Departments of Student Life
Overseeing the Food
Donating for Ourselves

Saving Grace has requirements for the food that could potentially be donated, and there is a system to which the food gets distributed. To see how it all worked first hand, we made an anonymous food donation. We were able to see a glimpse of the background that each food donor goes through, as well as a sneak peek into the operations and logistics behind what kinds of foods go where as it’s best fit to helping those in need with food injustice.
Although this was originally an assignment for this class, we wanted to establish a lasting connection with Saving Grace. Helping with food injustice doesn’t end once we finish this class and graduate, so why should we stop this connection towards helping to solve a larger issue in Omaha and the rest of the nation? We’re in the process of continuing to plan with Saving Grace the other interested organizations on campus and the future events held by these organizations and Sodexo.
Sidney’s Motivation Towards Her Engagement

Vision of Justice & Serving the Common Good
Everyone should be given an opportunity to a full & healthy life

Fields of Study
Nursing; Psychology Major, Neuropsychology Minor

Outlook as a Future Nurse
Protecting the overall health of our world’s future generations in a holistic approach
Paul’s Motivation Towards His Engagement

Fields of Study
Pre-med; Biomedical physics Major

Vision of Justice & Serving the Common Good
Serve those who cannot serve themselves, and make sure no one is left alone

Outlook as a Future Physician
Life is unsustainable without good nutrition, and good mental health
Main Skills We Learned From Our Creighton Courses

As college students, our ways of thinking are always influenced by our interests and our surroundings both in the classroom and outside of it. At Creighton, the Jesuit values additionally teach us to keep the greater community in mind when we are making our decisions. With medical backgrounds and fields of coursework, we both see the lasting impact solving food insecurity has, especially for future generations to come.

Being OPEN-MINDED

A Little Goes A Long Way

Continuing to Be GENEROUS For The Greater Community