

# **Providing Hope: Southern Utah University's HOPE (Helping Our People Eat) Pantry**

The development of a  
campus-based food pantry

Pam Branin, Associate Director of Community Engagement, Southern Utah University

Special thanks to SUU VISTA Amy Dean and the many students who have shared their talents, time and passion to make the Pantry a success



Room 3

cost:  
\$1 w/can of food  
\$2

SOOS  
Potato Bacon  
Taco

# 2002

- Student research project indicates student support for campus-based pantry
  - Survey administered to 350 students, 199 surveys returned
    - 34 percent had fallen short financially in last 12 months (overdrawn bank account)
    - 60 percent indicated they felt a need for food bank
    - 51 percent of students were aware of community food bank
    - 2 percent had actually used community food bank during past year
- Newly developed Service & Learning Center acts in role of coordinating entity, pulls together representatives from social science department, student government, and student body at large.
- HOPE Pantry created in April, 2002

**Laying the groundwork**

One of the first campus-based, student pantries in the United States, the SUU HOPE Pantry was created in 2002 based on student surveys and more informal student discussion, indicating that many students suffered from food insecurity, but didn't see themselves as "in need," and thus failed to utilize community assistance programs. Students in transition are often faced with the reality of moving from a food-secure environment (living at home) to one in which they are less secure, and sometimes less able, to always adequately meet their food needs. On-going formal and informal assessment since 2003, often performed by nutrition students as service-learning experiences, provides evidence that the HOPE Pantry meets a vital need for many SUU students.

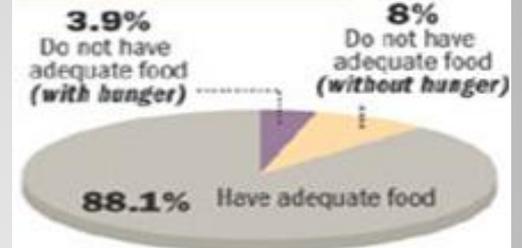
## Adequate food

States where households were uncertain of having to acquire to acquire adequate food.

### TOP 10

RANK	STATE	PERCENT OF POPULATION
1.	Texas	16.4%
2.	New Mexico	15.8%
3.	Mississippi	15.8%
4.	Oklahoma	15.2%
5.	UTAH	14.8%
6.	South Carolina	14.8%
7.	Arkansas	14.8%
8.	Idaho	14.6%
9.	North Carolina	13.8%
10.	Arizona	12.7%

### Hunger in the U.S.



SOURCE: "Household Food Security in the United States, 2004," United States Department of Agriculture

Utah ranks 5<sup>th</sup> for food insecurity in the U.S. A fact that is likely mirrored on Utah campuses

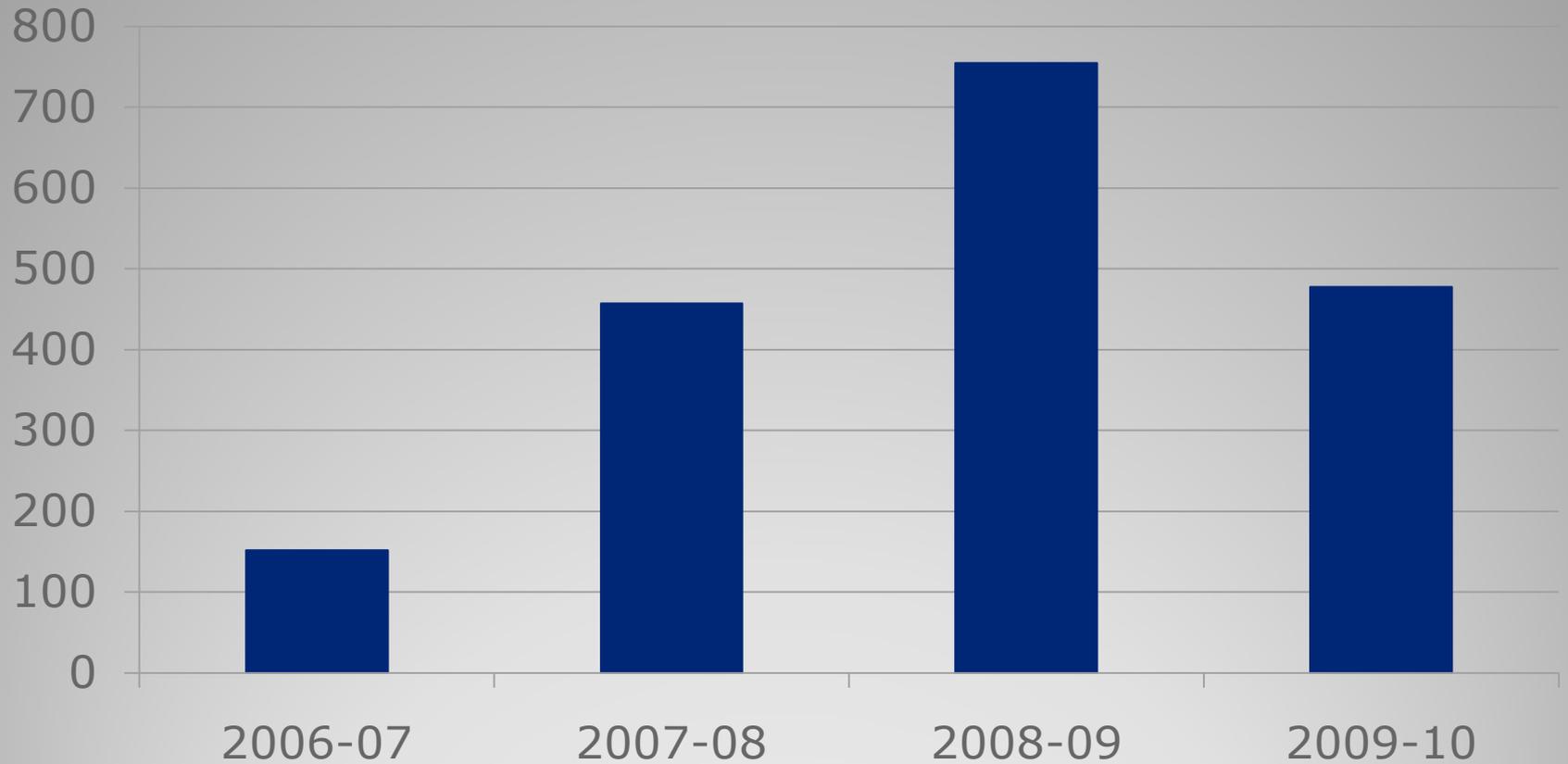
# Students and food insecurity

- **Location secured** inside campus Service & Learning Center (recently re-named as Community Engagement Center)
- Student Association (student government) provides startup **funding** for shelving and food
- Student board delivers fliers campus-wide and to student housing **advertising** pantry
- Pantry is also **advertised** on campus radio station and in campus newspaper
- Faculty and staff, especially “frontline” people are notified of the Pantry so that they can **refer students**

**Creation**

- The Pantry is open to all SUU students
- The Pantry is open 8 am-5 pm, Monday-Friday
- Food and non-food items, as well as low-cost recipes and nutritional information are provided
- Services are offered on a “no-questions-asked” basis (no paperwork, no name required)
- Students who visit the Pantry two or more times per month are also referred to community-based resources

## **Pantry protocol**



**Pantry Use (school year, Sept.-Aug.)**

- Partners, Partners, Partners

Partnerships have been critical to continued Pantry success, including:

- Community food bank—provides surplus perishable items
- Local grocery stores—provide “day old” baked goods
- Campus groups—often sponsor “can activities”, events for which admission is a canned food item
- Faculty and staff—provide donations, student referrals
- Student housing—host donation bins as students move out

- Bread & Soup Nite

- Sponsored by the Community Engagement Center as the main Pantry “food raiser”
- Attended by 700-900 people monthly
- Provides all-you-can-eat bread, soup, dessert and live entertainment
- Admission is \$1 and a non-perishable food item
- “Bread & Soup Nite is better than Disneyland!” –student feed back is overwhelmingly positive

## **Maintaining the Pantry**

- Students play a key role in maintaining and enhancing Pantry services
  - The Pantry and Bread & Soup Nite, the monthly “food-raiser” event, are managed by student leaders. These leaders coordinate all aspects of the Pantry and Bread & Soup Nite including:
    - Coordinating the meal
    - Coordinating publicity
    - Coordinating entertainment
    - Soliciting donations
    - Recruiting volunteers
  - Nutrition students provide recipes, nutritional information and help staff Bread & Soup Nite

**Utilizing student leadership**

- Keeping needed items in-stock
  - Cereal
  - Canned meats
  - Canned fruits
- Insuring those who need Pantry services are aware of Pantry
- Potential abuse

## Challenges



H.O.P.E.  
Pantry Donations  
Thanks for your support!

BREAD  
and  
RICE

EXIT

Elast









CORN



GREEN BEANS



TUNA

MEAT

