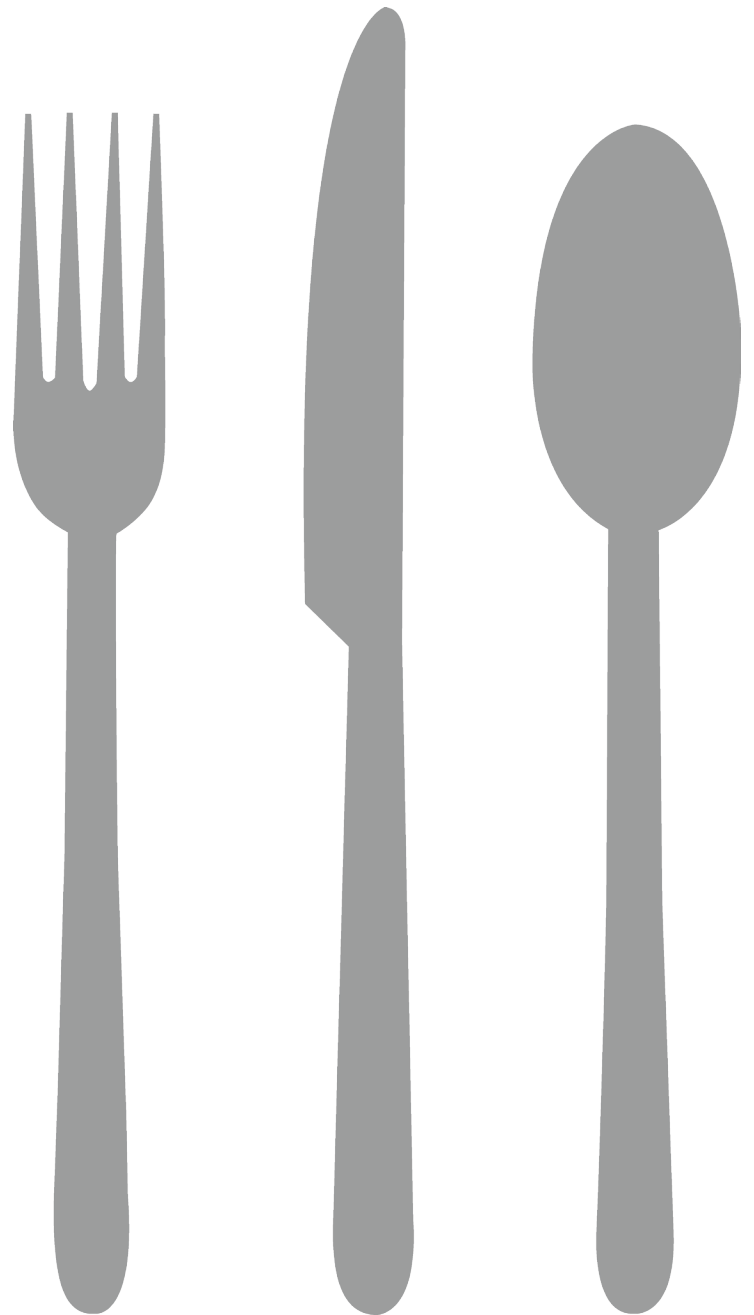




UNC CHARLOTTE

The Engaged
Campus:

UNC Charlotte's
Food Security
Initiatives





Sow Much Good

A graduate of UNC Charlotte, Robbin Emmons is an activist and advocate for food access in marginalized communities. In 2008, Emmons used food as a vehicle for promoting social justice, creating “Sow Much Good.”

Sow Much Good is designed to help grow healthy communities in underserved neighborhoods by providing direct access to fresh and affordable food, educating residents on healthy eating habits, and advocating for universal food security.

Sow Much Good operates two micro-farms and an urban market in the Charlotte area. Its newest endeavor, Farm Fresh To Go, offers Community Supported Agriculture shares of the produce, fresh eggs, and local honey for pickup or delivery to food insecure neighborhoods.

UNC Charlotte students, faculty and staff regularly volunteer with Sow Much Good.





UNC Charlotte Community Garden

Levine Scholars Jake Emerson, Kevin Rodengen, and Chloe Rodengen had a desire to create a community garden as a platform for sustainability, education, and experimentation. They envisioned students learning about healthy eating, how to grow food, and, most importantly, how to organize sustainability programs for campus.

In collaboration with other student leaders and faculty from disciplines across campus, the Community Garden became a reality in September 2014. According to the creators, the goal is to create a space that students can mold into their own.

Produce from the garden will go to campus dining services, the Niner Student Pantry, as well as community non-profits such as Friendship Trays. In 2015, the Community Garden will construct a solar-powered drip irrigation system and handicap-accessible walkways.





Stop Hunger Now

Stop Hunger Now is an international hunger relief agency designed to end hunger in this lifetime. Since 1998, the organization has distributed food and lifesaving aid to children and families around the globe.

In April 2012, UNC Charlotte students, faculty and staff joined the cause and campaigned to raise more than \$3,000. The money was used to purchase and package high-protein meals with rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables, and a flavoring mix with 23 essential vitamins and nutrients.

Through continued efforts, UNC Charlotte has provided over 13,000 meals for crisis-burdened area school feeding programs in Haiti, Kenya, El Salvador, Liberia, and Nicaragua.





UNC Charlotte Food Recycling Program

The Food Recycling Program was established in 1991 by University Honors Program students. Every Tuesday and Thursday since inception, student volunteers have collected food that has been cooked but not yet served from campus cafeterias. Students then deliver the food to Charlotte's Urban Ministries Center and The Center for Hope Women's Shelter.

Until 1994, students transported the food in their own vehicles. Eventually, they raised money to purchase a van, and in 1995 obtained grant money to purchase a refrigeration unit.

In 2013-2014 volunteers collected and delivered over 2,100 pounds of food. Every year, the program continues to gain awareness and support. UNC Charlotte also plans to partner with Johnson and Wales University to expand outreach efforts.





Niner Student Pantry

Established in September 2014, the Niner Student Pantry was created to provide food to students experiencing economic hardship. Partnering with the “Food Lion Feeds” program, the pantry provides assistance to undergraduate and graduate students.

A recent national study showed that an unexpectedly large number of college students are unable to find or afford nutritious food. In establishing the pantry, UNC Charlotte joins 13 other UNC system institutions with similar initiatives.

Food Lion has sponsored the pantry, providing shelving and nonperishable items, including boxed cereal, oatmeal, macaroni and cheese, boxed rice, tuna, mixed vegetables, applesauce, and chicken noodle soup.

To qualify for assistance, students must live off campus and not have a University meal plan. In addition, each client must complete an intake form and a food pantry inventory list.



**FOOD LION
FEEDS**





Faculty Research and Engaged Scholarship

Dr. Nicole Peterson, assistant professor of Anthropology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, incorporates service-learning into her Applied Anthropology course. In collaboration with Friendship Gardens and Friendship Trays, Dr. Peterson's students identify barriers to accessing high-quality food in parts of Charlotte. Students conduct qualitative research at mobile produce markets near the bus station in Center City.

Dr. Elizabeth Racine, associate professor of Public Health Services in the College of Health and Human Services partnered with the Department of Public Health Sciences, the Mecklenburg County Food Policy Council, and the Historic West End Neighborhood Association to investigate the amount of money Historic West End neighborhood residents spend on food. Residents want to use the results of the study to convince developers that the neighborhood has the economic base to support a full service grocery store.

Directed by Brett Tempest, assistant professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering in the Lee College of Engineering, and Lisa Merriweather, assistant professor of Educational Leadership in the College of Education, students from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Activities League partnered with UNC Charlotte's Engineers without Borders to design and install a rainwater collection system and a solar panel for the Fit and Green Garden at Garinger High School.





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