



THE DIALOGUE



The Kentucky Hunger Dialogue Newsletter

Caring in Action: Volunteering to Fight College Hunger



College hunger is a growing challenge that affects students' ability to learn and stay enrolled. Rising costs for housing, tuition, and basic needs leave many students struggling to access reliable, nutritious meals. Volunteer service has become one of the most effective ways to support students facing these pressures.

Campus food pantries, meal-share programs, and community partnerships rely on volunteers to keep operations running smoothly. From stocking shelves to organizing donations or helping students find resources, volunteers help create a welcoming, stigma-free environment. Their presence sends a powerful message: no student should have to choose between academic success and their next meal.

One meaningful way to get involved is by joining the KHD Action Group, a team dedicated to hunger-relief efforts and campus awareness. Members help coordinate service events, advocate for resources, and strengthen the safety net for students in need.

Volunteering in the college hunger space isn't just about food—it's about dignity, equity, and ensuring every student has the opportunity to thrive.

The Shepherd Higher Education Consortium on Poverty is hosting a FREE VIRTUAL EVENT!

On Tuesday, February 17th, the Shepherd Higher Education Consortium on Poverty will host Maureen McNamara Best, Executive Director of the Local Environmental Agriculture Project (LEAP), and Zach Zook, Chief Strategy Officer for the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, will discuss how their organizations are integrating food production into their efforts to improve food access and build resilient communities. The discussion will be moderated by Ryan McCoy, professor of Environmental Studies at Washington and Lee University. [Learn more & register.](#)

Farming & Food Security

February 17, 2026 • 6PM ET • Zoom



Maureen McNamara Best
Local Environmental Agriculture Project (LEAP)



Zach Zook
Central Pennsylvania Food Bank

This SHECP Springboard event, moderated by **Professor Ryan McCoy**, will explore the ways in which different organizations across the country are leveraging their local networks and opportunities to integrate farming into their efforts to address food access barriers. This event is co-hosted by the **Bucknell University's Center for Community Engaged Leadership, Learning & Research** and **Campus Kitchen** at Washington and Lee University.




"Life's most persistent and urgent question is: 'What are you doing for others?'" – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



The Kentucky Hunger Dialogue College Pantry Community of Practice meets bi-weekly!

If you or your organization would like to become involved in reaching our collective Vision:

Create a collaborative, statewide network that supports colleges in strengthening their food pantry operations, reducing student food insecurity, and sharing best practices.

Contact **Reba Prather** at reba.prather@engageky.org to be added to our invite list!

We hope to see you soon!

Get your hunger related news and events posted here! Contact **Susan Byrd** for more information.



The Kentucky Hunger Dialogue Action Group – a space to continue the dialogue and advance hunger-focused initiatives across Kentucky.

Click on 'JOIN US' to express your interest.