

Food Repurposing Project

The United States wastes over 60 million tons of food each year (*more than any country in the world*)¹ and yet 13% of Americans lack reliable access to adequate food and therefore are food insecure.² At UNH, it is estimated that 19% of students face food insecurity.³ These rates are expected to have increased by 5% due to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴

What can we do?

UNH is partnering with [Gather](#), a community organization dedicated to ending hunger, to repurpose rescued wholesome food.

It is a fact that even the most efficient foodservice operations will produce some food in excess. Nationally, several universities have established food repurposing programs and best practices in collaboration with established food pantries in their communities. Such collaborations address the management challenges of distributing safe, wholesome food to university members and communities challenged by food insecurity and reduce the amount of food waste. UNH and Gather's collaboration will take extra food from UNH dining halls, Gather, local farmers and other food that would otherwise go to waste, and repurpose it into nutritious meals that are available to those in the community of need of food.

We need your help!

This pilot project needs the UNH community's support in our campus kitchen, located in Barton Hall. Volunteers are needed to help prepare food in 2-hour shifts. To volunteer:

1. [Register as a volunteer with Gather](#) indicating that you're affiliated with UNH.
2. You will receive an email from Gather with instructions on how to sign up with shifts for the 'UNH Project.'

If you have questions, please contact info@gathernh.org.

1. <https://www.epa.gov/facts-and-figures-about-materials-waste-and-recycling/food-material-specific-data>
2. <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/measures-data-sources/county-health-rankings-model/health-factors/health-behaviors/diet-exercise/food-insecurity>
3. https://media-gallery.unh.edu/media_submission/465/
4. <https://www.feedingamerica.org/research/coronavirus-hunger-research>

