



THE
CAMPUS
KITCHENS
PROJECTSM

News Release
November 25, 2013

Contact: Linda Kurtz
202-789-5979 x107
lkurtz@campuskitchens.org

Meredith College students launch Campus Kitchen to address hunger and food waste

RALEIGH, N.C. – Just in time for Thanksgiving, on Monday, November 25, Meredith College joined The Campus Kitchens Project network and launched the Campus Kitchen at Meredith College, a student-run organization that provides free, healthy meals to Raleigh residents by using donated food that would otherwise go to waste. With the program's official status, Meredith College becomes one of 34 schools that are part of the national network.

"This program will empower our students to fight hunger in a meaningful way year round," said Rev. Stacy Pardue, Meredith College Chaplain. "As an institution that values service learning and community involvement, we are looking forward to making a real difference in Raleigh through the Campus Kitchen."

At each Campus Kitchen nationwide, students lead efforts to combat food waste and hunger by collecting surplus food from dining halls, community gardens, restaurants and grocery stores and transforming it into healthy meals. The Campus Kitchen at Meredith College, sponsored by the Office of the Chaplain, is the fourth Campus Kitchen in North Carolina; other members of The Campus Kitchens Project network include Wake Forest University, Elon University and East Carolina University. Volunteers with the Campus Kitchen at Meredith College will initially deliver meals to the Kentwood Learning Center's after school program for youth, serving 50-60 children per week.

"I'm delighted to welcome the Campus Kitchen at Meredith College into our growing national network," said Laura Toscano, director of The Campus Kitchens Project. "Here at the Campus Kitchens Project, we believe no food should go to waste while people are hungry. By joining this movement as our newest Campus Kitchen, Meredith College is offering its students the

opportunity to fight both hunger and food waste in the Raleigh community, and to develop valuable leadership skills in the process.”

Students and staff first learned about the program at a conference at Wake Forest University, where they spoke with students from the Campus Kitchen at Wake Forest University. They then organized a diverse group of campus representatives to work to bring The Campus Kitchens Project to the college.

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, the Campus Kitchen at Meredith College held a food recovery and preparation shift in late November. They will continue full operations in January with the start of the spring semester. At that time, food preparation and cooking will take place at Belk Dining Hall on campus. Food donors will include Fresh Market and the Raleigh branch of the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina.

In the last academic year, 33 Campus Kitchens across the country rescued more than 404,000 pounds of food and served 279,680 meals to 9,365 clients.

###

About The Campus Kitchens Project

Founded in 2001, The Campus Kitchens Project is a national organization that empowers student volunteers to fight hunger in their community. On 34 university and high school campuses across the country, students transform unused food from dining halls, grocery stores, restaurants, and farmers’ markets into meals that are delivered to local agencies serving those in need. By taking the initiative to run a community kitchen, students develop entrepreneurial and leadership skills, along with a commitment to serve their community, that they will carry with them into future careers. Each Campus Kitchen goes beyond meals by using food as a tool to promote poverty solutions, implement garden initiatives, participate in nutrition education, and convene food policy events. To learn more about our work or bring The Campus Kitchens Project to your school, visit www.campuskitchens.org.