

Evergreen Satellite Foodbank

*JC Wortham, Student Food and Resource Coordinator
AmeriCorps*

The Evergreen Satellite Foodbank Pop-up distributions continue in Parking Lot C at the Olympia Evergreen Campus. Food distributions are on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday, 2 pm - 4 pm each month (except in the event of campus closures). This schedule is the result of limited staff and volunteers, but responds to campus needs during the pandemic. Accessible drive-up/walk up options help mitigate exposure to Covid-19.

This year the Evergreen Food Bank has seen an increase in households that pick up food during our distributions. This time last year the average was about 20 households served per distribution. This academic year, the past nine distributions served an average of 33 households, with 757 individual visits in 5 months. About 65% of those visits were made by current Evergreen Students, 8% by Evergreen Alumni and 21% by Evergreen Staff. Remember many have multiple roles- some students are staff members and/or alumni and some staff members are alumni. It is safe to say that over 75% of foodbank visitors are a part of the Evergreen Community!



Photo courtesy of JC Wortham

@evergreenfoodbank

2022-23 CCBLA & Gateways Staff

Director: Ellen Shortt Sanchez
Gateways Program Coordinator: Talib Williams
Gateways Faculty: Carolyn Prouty
Gateways AMP Coordinator
AmeriCorps: Ash Campbell
Basic Needs Leader & Case Manager: Penelope Partridge
Community Service Work Study
Housing Food Support: Lurian Barstow, Hailey Williams
Student Food and Resource Coordinator AmeriCorps: JC Wortham
Food Access and Engagement Navigator AmeriCorps: Rachel Espinoza Ortiz
Basic Needs Advocate AmeriCorps/MPA student: Dharma Koffer
Mentor/Tutor Coordinator AmeriCorps: Maria Atristain
Jacinta McKoy CBL Scholar: Gabby Davis
WACC Civic Fellow: Lorrie Olson
Newsletter Designer & Intern: Clara Humphreys
 Thanks to Therese Saliba VPIESS

Gateways

Ash Campbell, Gateways AMP coordinator AmeriCorps

What is AMP? AMP is the Gateways Academic Mentoring Program held at Evergreen State College. Like the Gateways College Class that serves Green Hill School, AMP works with our local incarcerated youth. This school year AMP is proudly working with Olympia's Youth Detention Program. In true Greener form, mentoring cultivates participation. Community building is especially important to the often disregarded and forgotten populations of students in the juvenile system. Every Monday at 3 pm in CCBLA (Sem 2 E 2115), volunteers get together to co-facilitate workshops on a wide variety of topics including mental health, self-care, resume building, credit building, agriculture, culture, self-esteem, mindfulness, preparation for interviews, plant care, nutrition, and goal setting. We choose *(cont.)*

our workshops from our knowledge base, topics important to youth, and subjects we wish to explore together. Being a great mentor can look like a variety of different things. Some volunteers enjoy organizing our workshops, others teach hands-on skills to the group, many share kindness and patience. Our growing community is learning skills from each other and building our own toolbox. Everyone has something to offer in this space. AMP supports access to education and community building that reduces recidivism. Breaking cycles is challenging. We want students to have opportunities to learn outside of the classroom.

AMP helps system involved youth think about college in their future. Dany Franco, Youth Detention Program staff shared, "I've seen many very positive effects on the youth during my time in the Youth Development Coordinator Position. Just from the start, when youth arrive at Evergreen, they're amazed at what they see. Most have never been to a college before. That grabs their attention, which then leads into the AMP program. We have had so many different activities and many of the youth have specifically asked to come back. Those youth have now branched out to the idea of college! AMP has helped us tremendously in exposing our students to college culture. The staff at AMP have also been able to give the youth a safe place to be themselves. We hope to continue our partnership for many more years to come!"

Interested in volunteering? Being an AMP volunteer gives Evergreen students the opportunity to learn new skills from peers, how to collaborate on workshops, build your community, and make new friends. Volunteering looks fantastic on resumes and future college applications. AMP gives experiences that don't always happen in the classroom. To volunteer contact: Ash Campbell, Ashley.Campbell@evergreen.edu



Workshop at GRuB / Photo courtesy of Ash Campbell

Latinx Youth Summit 2022: Mural Making

*Maria Atristain CCBLA Tutor Mentor Coordinator
AmeriCorps/Evergreen Student*

On November 22, 2023, Evergreen held the 20th annual Latinx Youth Summit (LYS) with our community partners at Hispanic Roundtable. We had the pleasure of hosting 400 Latinx high school students and 50 educators from Lewis, Mason, Pacific and Grays Harbor counties. The summit offered workshops on college preparation, creative writing, and Latinx identity. I had the privilege of co-hosting a workshop, Mural Making to Reclaim Latinx History, with my compañera Luz Peña. Luz and I had taken The Mural Project academic program last spring. For LYS, we thought 45 minutes was not enough time to create a mural, but we dream big! We sat down and asked each other what we wanted students to take from our workshop. We wanted them to own their latinidad and take pride in it, to make art and know that it deserves to be seen. We are creative, resilient, and full of joy. That deserves to be represented.

Instead of presenting on the history of mural making, or contemporary Latinx mural artists, we gave the students the power. Luz and I gathered materials like paint, glitter, feathers, markers, pens, National geographic books. I moved the lecture room rows into five tables where the students were facing each other instead of me. *(cont.)*

Gateways
for
incarcerated
youth

evergreen.edu/gateways

We started with a game of Mosca and then went back into the classroom to sit and get to know each other. We asked what being Latinx means. What comes to mind when we talk about it? We set out all the supplies we had gathered and a 16x13 piece of paper. After our brief discussion, the remaining half hour was theirs to work together. These students came from all over Washington. Most of them did not know each other before this workshop. It was so magical to hear them laugh and share stories, building community with one another. After thirty minutes, we asked them to stand up and show us all. At first, I could see they were anxious to get up in front and show their work, but it shifted to excitement and pride. The whole class clapped and cheered for each other, they were taking pictures of all the papers, not just their own. We put all the papers together to make a big collage mural, 12 papers to express what being Latinx means today. Themes of hard work, warm colors, agriculture, religion, and of course Bad Bunny, flow through the pages. The students created such a beautiful mural in only thirty minutes, and I couldn't be prouder!

On behalf of Luz and I, a big thank you to Catalina Ocampo, Anahí Garcia, Lee Arneson and Ellen Shortt Sanchez for their support on this workshop, could not have done it without you!



Thurston Housing Land Trust

Photo courtesy of Chase Patton

Read about student involvement in local housing land trust at the Cooper Point Journal!

cooperpointjournal.com/2023/02/15/thurston-housing-land-trust/



Photo courtesy of Maria Atristain

Basic Food Assistance

Rachel Espinoza Ortiz, Food Access and Engagement Navigator AmeriCorps

The U.S. Department Of Agriculture Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, called Basic Food in Washington, helps people with low incomes make ends meet by providing monthly benefits to buy food. These benefits provide hundreds of dollars worth of aid to many students who are eligible for work-study or who have an estimated family contribution of \$0.

With SNAP, you receive a monthly allowance to buy all the food you need to fit your dietary needs. Most of our wonderful students use the foodbank to fill their need for basic food, but most times there is not enough food that fits every unique individual diet. In that case it is crucial for health needs to be able to afford food bought in stores. From my own experience with using food pantries and food banks, there is not enough food that someone can eat if they have food allergies. Feedback from students also has mentioned that because they weren't able to take much home, they have started seeing the effects of not eating enough. Most students get overwhelmed with the application process. With Rachel's support the goal is to be a guide through the overwhelming process and be there to answer any questions that may arise. Rachel believes it is important to build a support system as a college student.

Rachel Espinoza Ortiz is a Latinx AmeriCorps service member. She started her first term back in April of 2021. Rachel is serving her second term and has helped a handful of students receive information towards applying for SNAP and get them access to basic needs. Rachel helps by being a guide to students and get them through the application process. According to the Washington Connection website – due to changes in the federal law, emergency food allotments in SNAP (EBT) benefits ending in February will decrease to normal benefit levels beginning March 2023. She can be used a resource to help finish and submit the SNAP application successfully. She is available Mon- Fri via email (rachel.espinoza_ortiz@evergreen.edu) or through appointment at evergreen.edu/care/how-access-our-support-services

evergreen.edu/communitybasedlearning



Flyer courtesy of Rachel Espinoza Ortiz

We thank JC Wortham, Student Food and Resource Coordinator AmeriCorps for their efforts with the annual 'Point In Time' homeless census event for youth and young adults in Thurston County.