



Bunker Hill Community College

DISH FOOD PANTRY

2025 Annual Report



“

I am so thankful for the help I received. And the humility I was treated with. Felt like a real grocery store without the stress of how I will afford it!

”

PHOTO: ADAM DETOUR

OUR MISSION

Deliver Information, Sustenance, and Health (DISH) to the Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC) campus community. The DISH aims to empower those in need to obtain resources so that they may focus on being healthy, happy, and successful at Bunker Hill Community College without the barrier of fighting hunger. The DISH is a student-driven and supported resource that is committed to being a safe, dignified, and stigma-free environment.

The DISH aspires to alleviate the barriers associated with food insecurity to support student success at Bunker Hill Community College and to ensure that no one goes hungry because of a lack of income or access to food.

The DISH Food Pantry serves current students, faculty, and staff at Bunker Hill Community College.

2025 BY THE NUMBERS

71,178 Total Pounds Donated

52,642 lbs. Food For Free
10,756 lbs. Food Link
3,253 lbs. Community Donations
2,636 lbs. Hope & Comfort
884 lbs. Dignity Matters
594 lbs. Boston Public Health Commission
413 lbs. Seven Hills Pasta

131,028 Total Pounds Distributed

71,178 lbs. Pounds Donated: includes fresh produce, frozen proteins, eggs, dairy items, shelf-stable items, hygiene items, menstrual products, and PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)
52,053 lbs. Pounds Purchased: includes diapers, baby food, baby products, specialty and culturally-relevant food items, allergen-friendly foods, produce, snacks, drinks, hygiene items, household and cleaning products, and additional frozen meals
7,797 lbs. Frozen Heat-n-Eats Meals (6,780 total meals, January - August)

PLUS

\$10,000 Stop & Shop gift cards distributed

1,556 New Intake Forms

1,505 Students
51 Faculty/Staff

Intake forms are how BHCC community members register to use the DISH grocery program.

1,002 Households / 2,906 Individuals served through Grocery Program

3,855 Grocery Orders Filled

2,400 In-person pickups (B-101)
1,253 Charlestown Locker pickups
202 Chelsea Locker pickups

36,126 Total Grab & Go Visits (January–August)

24,103 Visits to Main Office
10,419 Visits to G-Building Lounge
1,604 Visits to Chelsea Campus Student Lounge



DISH has been a critical lifeline for me during uncertain times. Without it, I'm unsure how I'd have fared. Bless you all for doing this work. It matters. Every item reminds me that someone cares about me as a student past my grades or performance, but fully as a human being.



PHOTO: ADAM DETOUR

MILESTONES

Spring 2025

- DISH partnered with BHCC's Culinary Arts program to co-host **two special culinary events** on campus during the spring semester. The first, an intimate, seated 3-course dinner, brought together DISH partners and supporters for a memorable evening celebrating both the hard work of the Culinary Arts students and the impact of our DISH community – not to mention, the evening was full of delicious dishes! The second event was a larger reception featuring a variety of food stations. All members of the greater DISH community were invited to attend. We look forward to continuing our partnership with Culinary Arts in 2026.

Summer 2025

- Dignity Matters**, based in Westborough, MA, came onboard as a new donation partner for DISH, providing free menstrual products including pads, tampons, and period underwear for us to distribute in the pantry. We are so grateful for their ongoing support!

Fall 2025

- We were so honored to be featured in the Fall issue of **Edible Boston** magazine! We are so grateful to have our work spotlighted on this stage. [Check out the article!](#) >
- DISH participated in **Ride for Food** for the second year in a row, and far surpassed our fundraising goal! Our team of dedicated BHCC students, faculty, staff and community members biked and walked in support of DISH, raising almost \$18,000 to stock the pantry! It was a wonderful event, and we can't wait to do it again. We hope you will join us!



It may sound stupid but not having food had created an insecurity for me. My stomach would rumble really loud in class drawing attention to me so I would struggle to attend classes but I didn't have much food at home to fix this. This is just one of many impacts.



OUR PROGRAMS

Grocery Orders

DISH users can place monthly orders online via SmartChoice for grocery items including pantry staples, fresh produce, hygiene and household products, culturally-relevant and allergen-friendly options, and baby products. Shoppers have the option of picking up their order in person at our pantry or in our refrigerated lockers.

Our refrigerated lockers offer DISH users additional flexibility, privacy and dignity when picking up their orders.

In 2025, we **served 1,002 households** (up 40% from 2024) through our grocery program, filling **3,855 grocery orders** (up 8% from 2024), which includes orders picked up in-person as well as in our refrigerated lockers on the Charlestown and Chelsea Campuses. We processed **1,556 new intake forms** in 2025, a **28% increase** from the previous year.



Being able to supplement my food sources with DISH's easy to use ordering platform and provide healthy options is very convenient as a busy student and helps me focus on spending time on work and school goals.



Diaper Lottery

DISH users are able to enter our Diaper Lottery on a monthly basis. We randomly select approximately 50 people to receive a free box of diapers of their preferred size for that month. We prioritize those who did not receive diapers via the lottery during the prior month.

Grab & Go Locations

Through August 2025, DISH operated **three Grab & Go locations**. These locations included the Main Grab & Go office (B-101) on the Charlestown Campus, the G-Building Lounge on the 2nd Floor of the Charlestown Campus, and the Chelsea Campus Student Lounge (4th Floor). Items offered at our Grab & Go locations included snacks, drinks, frozen meals, fresh produce, bread products, pads and tampons, travel-size hygiene items, PPE, and miscellaneous grocery items.

DISH once again saw a significant increase in Grab & Go visits – **36,126 visits** from January to August 2025 alone. In comparison, 2024 saw 35,809 visits across the full calendar year. Our busiest day recorded saw **694 students, faculty and staff members** visit our Grab & Go locations, an **increase of 55%** from the previous year, where our busiest day consisted of 448 visits. Unfortunately, due to various factors including funding constraints and resource limitations, all three DISH Grab & Go locations were closed at the end of August 2025.

Heat-n-Eats Frozen Meal Program

Thanks to our longstanding partnership with Food For Free, DISH was able to offer healthy, frozen meals at all of our Grab & Go locations from January–August 2025, before the Heat-n-Eats program ended. In 2025, DISH distributed **6,780 frozen Heat-n-Eats meals** to our BHCC community! These meals included meat, fish, and vegetarian options.



PHOTO: ADAM DETOUR

Overall Distribution

In 2025, we **distributed a total of 131,028 pounds** of food, hygiene and household items through our Grocery and Grab & Go programs. This is an **increase of 37%** over 2024. We **purchased 52,053 pounds** of product (**up 156%** from last year), equating to more than **\$153,700 spent**. This accounted for **40%** of the total product we distributed in 2025.



With DISH, a lot of unexpected food insecurity has been addressed and solved. I never thought I'd need it, but the fact that it's been here for me has been so helpful in trying times.



FALL 2025 FEEDBACK SURVEY RESULTS

Survey Basics

- Distributed in December 2025 to DISH grocery program users as well as the entire BHCC community to reach Grab & Go users.
- The survey was addressed to those who had utilized DISH services during the Fall 2025 semester.
- 196 responses were received from DISH users.

Experience

- **98%** of respondents "Agreed" or "Strongly Agreed" that they were **treated with dignity and respect** by DISH Food Pantry staff.
- **97%** of respondents are "Extremely Likely" or "Very Likely" to **recommend DISH** to other students, faculty, and/or staff.
- **96%** of respondents "Agreed" or "Strongly Agreed" that they **felt supported** by DISH Food Pantry staff.
- **88%** of respondents "Agreed" or "Strongly Agreed" that any **concerns or questions were addressed** in a timely manner.

Product

- **95%** of respondents rated the **quality of food items** received in their grocery orders as "Excellent" or "Good."

Impact

- **90%** of respondents "Agreed" or "Strongly Agreed" that they were able to **focus better on class or work-related activities** by receiving items from the DISH grocery program.
- **80%** of respondents "Agreed" or "Strongly Agreed" that they were **provided with food and hygiene items** they otherwise would not have access to.
- **78%** of respondents "Agreed" or "Strongly Agreed" that by using the DISH, their **ability to attend courses** was improved.

Retention

- **87%** of respondents plan to **sign up for more classes** at BHCC.
- **78%** of respondents "Agreed" or "Strongly Agreed" that by using DISH, they were able to **stay enrolled** at BHCC.

Opportunities for Improvement

- Many respondents requested the return of **Grab & Go options**, mainly for the convenience they provided.
- **Long wait times** between when orders were placed and the next available pickup slot proved challenging.
- A desire for a **wider variety of items**, including fresher, healthier, and more allergen-friendly options, as well as **more consistent availability** of items was expressed.
- Some respondents shared that the **quantity of product** received through monthly orders is **not sufficient**, and requested increased quantity and/or more frequent pickups.
- **Expanded evening hours** were also requested.



PHOTO: ADAM DETOUR

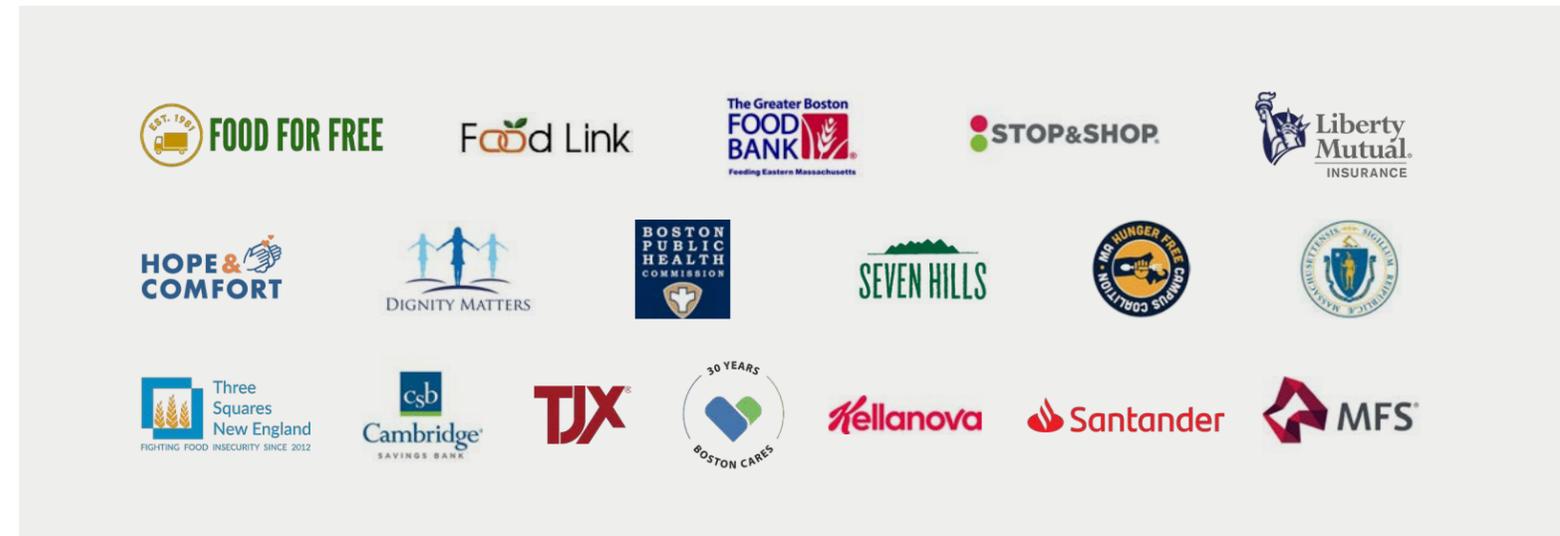
OUR PARTNERS

We could not do what we do without the support and generosity of our community partners and individual donors. A special shout-out to members of the BHCC Family – both on campus and beyond – who contribute monetary gifts, in-kind donations and help us to fulfill our Amazon Wishlist. Thank you so much!



Learn more about our community partners!

- Food For Free
- Food Link
- The Greater Boston Food Bank
- Stop & Shop
- Liberty Mutual Insurance
- Hope & Comfort
- Dignity Matters
- Boston Public Health Commission
- Seven Hills Pasta
- MA Hunger Free Campus Coalition
- Massachusetts Department of Higher Education
- Three Squares New England
- Cambridge Savings Bank
- The TJX Companies, Inc.
- Boston Cares
- Kellanova
- Santander Bank
- MFS Investment Management
- Community members



OUR STAFF

Chelsea Alexander,
DISH Food Pantry Coordinator

Andrea Catania, *DISH Food Pantry Operations Assistant*

The DISH is supported by a stellar team of BHCC student staff members, who contribute over **120 total hours** per week to DISH operations. Their responsibilities include packing orders, assisting DISH users, receiving deliveries, and restocking product – thank you, all!

2025 & Current Student Staff

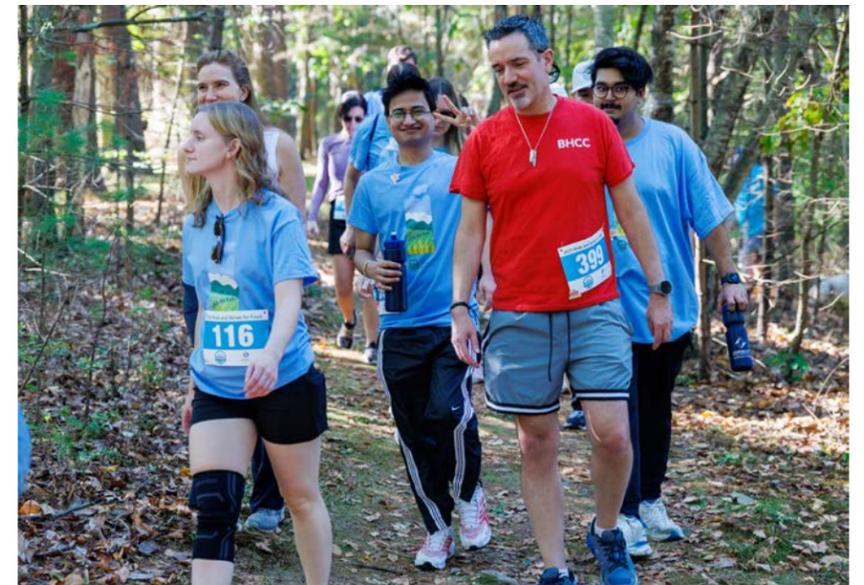
- Joelle Gnonlonfoun
- Ester Pina
- Jay Batsaikhan
- Vibian Jebichii
- Tejasvi Sabhani
- Justin Wonou
- Larissa Avosseh Amediame
- Susmita Thapa Magar
- Nay Myo Naing
- Sudin Koirala
- Ashmita Singh
- Pralad Budhathoki
- Neslihan Cikla
- Himal Malla
- Aashika Adhikari
- Saleh Ahmad Karama

Special thanks to Emery Spooner, our former DISH Food Pantry Assistant, Camryn Fedeli, our Spring 2025 Graduate Intern, Zanny Alter, Single Stop Coordinator, and Will Cribby, Assistant Dean of Students, for their support of the DISH team in 2025!



SUPPORT

You can support the DISH by making a monetary donation or donating via our Amazon Wishlist!



The DISH Food Pantry was founded in September 2019 and made possible by the following generous donors: BHCC Student Government Association, Missy & Marsh Carter, Carol & Giulio Caperchi, Diane & Bob Hildreth, Stop & Shop, Cabot Family Charitable Trust, Eos Foundation, and Liberty Mutual Insurance.



The DISH Food Pantry has truly made a difference in my experience at BHCC by giving me support during moments when managing food expenses felt overwhelming. As an international student, this help made me feel seen, supported, and part of a community that cares. I am deeply grateful for this program and for the kindness behind it.



Bunker Hill Community College

DISH Food Pantry
Bunker Hill Community College
250 New Rutherford Avenue, Room B-101
Boston, MA 02129
857-262-1412 | dish@bhcc.edu

bhcc.edu/dishfoodpantry

@bhccdish



imagine the possibilities

Charlestown Campus | 250 New Rutherford Avenue, Boston, MA 02129 | 617-228-2000 | TTY: 617-242-2365
Chelsea Campus | 70 Everett Avenue, Chelsea, MA 02150 | 617-228-2101 | TTY: 617-242-2365
Instructional Centers | Chinatown · Dorchester · East Boston · Everett · Malden · Quincy · Online | bhcc.edu