



SU Council

November 15, 2022

Anonymous client feedback, 2022

“As a student I recognize the societal normalization of food insecurity regarding post-secondary students. With rising food costs and the appalling rise in tuition this issue is becoming more and more prominent. The U of A food bank has been an essential program to my survival this year and I know I am not the only one who feels this way.”

The situation at UofA

- Student food insecurity
- What is the Campus Food Bank?
- What programming do we offer?
- Who are our clients?



Student food insecurity

- 12.6% of students skip meals at least once a week due to cost of food (UASU, 2022).
- According to Statistics Canada,
 - 6% of Albertans are moderately food insecure, and
 - 3% are severely food insecure.
- UASU Research in 2021 reported that,
 - 19.2% qualified as moderately food insecure, and
 - 12.4% of students qualified as severely food insecure.
 - (These numbers would be even higher for graduate students but we have no data.)

<https://www.su.ualberta.ca/media/uploads/1143/Food%20Insecurity%20and%20Dietary%20Requirements.pdf>

About the Campus Food Bank

Mission: Work and advocate for a UofA where everyone has access to food and food education.

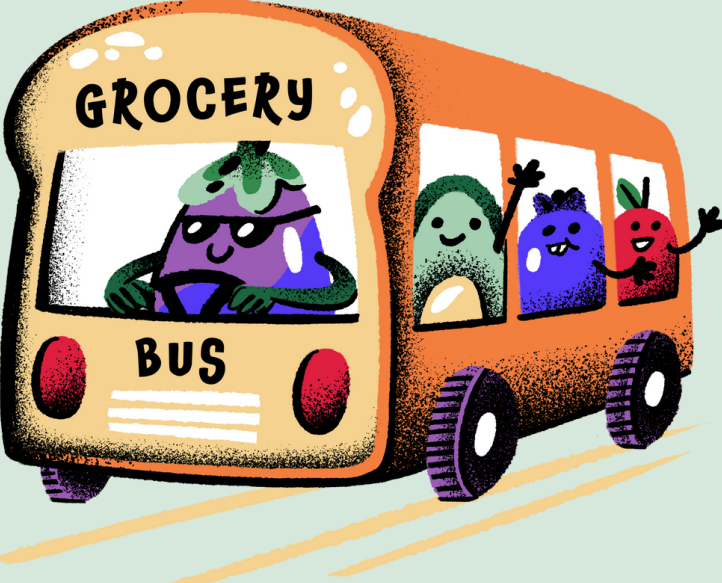
- Registered charity (c1991), separate board of directors from the UofA
- Three full-time staff (ED, programs manager, outreach manager)
- More than 100 student and alumni volunteers
- Located in SUB 1-81 and open to clients four hours per weekday at varying times
- Funded by UASU student fees, GSA grants, government & private grants, fundraising
- Clients can be students, staff, alumni, faculty... anyone with a ONEcard.



Staff: Bukola, Madi, Caitlin.



Our programs



WE CAN
Food Basket
Society





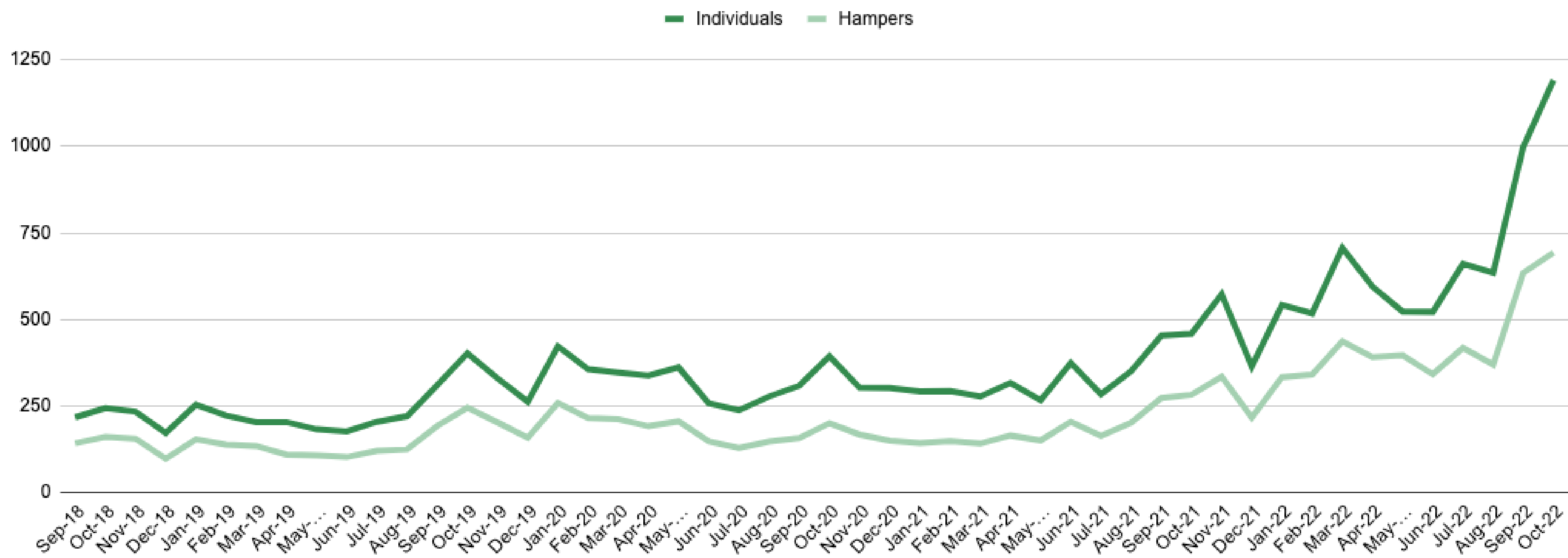
Weekly Wednesday breakfast in SUB

Weekly Thursday Campus Kitchen workshops



Recent hamper program usage

Monthly output Sept 2018 to Oct 2022



Who are our clients?

- 13.5% of our clients identify as LGBTQIA2S+.
- 45% of our clients only support themselves (household of one); 25% of our clients are in households of two; and the remaining 30% live in households of between three and eight people. Four percent of our clients are single parents.
- 59% of our clients are graduate students; 29% are undergraduate; 5% are alumni; 4% are faculty/staff.
- 68% of our clients are international students; 19% are domestic students.
- Faculty distribution: 30% engineering; 19% science; 12% ALES; 11% arts; 6% education; 4% business.
- 14% of our clients identify as having a chronic disability.

Why are they coming to us?

- Top three reasons for using and/or continuing to use the CFB: rising grocery prices (73%), tuition increases (47%), rent increase (42%).
- Our hamper program is a supplemental grocery program, but 20% of clients say that they are unable to cover the cost of the rest of their food intake.

"With the increasing grocery prices and overall cost of living, CFB has supported me to keep my grocery bills down. Being an international student, managing expenses for tuition, housing, utilities and groceries is really a difficult task, especially now when the price tag on everything is rising. " -Anonymous client feedback, 2022

What comes next?

Food access

- Conversion from hamper model to grocery model where clients shop for themselves.
- CFB Snack Stations closer to high student traffic and classroom areas.
- Expanding breakfast and grocery bus to Campus Saint-Jean.
- Outdoor 24/7 pantry project.
- Exploring additional space options to expand footprint on UofA campuses.

CFB Grocery Store launched November 7!



What comes next?

Food education

- Expanding Campus Kitchens' menus to include more international cuisine.
- Building volunteer committees to support work on equity, engagement, fundraising.
- Consulting clients on policy changes that would have material impact on their budget.
- Exploring more overt activism on issues of student affordability and international student supports.

Questions for you

- How do you see food insecurity affecting people in the UofA community?
- What are the causes you see leading to food insecurity at UofA?
- What specific changes could have the most impact?
- How would you want to be involved? Kept updated? Consulted?

Questions for me?

Thank you!

Erin O'Neil, executive director

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