The SHOP Backgrounder

Founded in January 2011, Students Helping Our Peers (The SHOP) is Iowa State University’s first student-run food pantry. Students in a former FSHN transfer learning community were determined to provide students with food assistance since living on a college budget can be extremely challenging. After finding a location and receiving both approval and funding from ISU’s Government of the Student Body (GSB), The SHOP was created. Located in the Food Sciences Building room 2616, The SHOP is open on Tuesdays from 3pm-6pm, Wednesdays from 4pm-6pm and Thursdays from 4pm-6pm in order to offer non-perishable food and personal care items to all ISU students and staff in need.

Today, The SHOP has approximately 120 volunteers/members and currently serves 10 students per week. They continue to be involved in both campus and community events such as Iowa State University’s VEISHEA Village and the Ames Crop Hunger Walk. The organization also collaborates with local food pantries in Ames and refers students and staff to their services.

Providing food assistance for students living off-campus is the main focus of their outreach campaign. The SHOP launched “Mobile SHOP” at the Schilletter-University Village (SUV) Laundromat on April 26th, 2013. Their second Mobile SHOP event held on November 15th, 2013 included the distribution of Thanksgiving-themed, pre-packaged food bags in addition to fresh sweet potatoes and apples from the ISU Horticulture Station (Hort Farm).

In the near future, The SHOP hopes to expand their outreach program so that they are able to reach more students living off-campus. With new executive board members and volunteers for the 2013-2014 school year, The SHOP is looking forward to actively participating in additional campus-wide and local events as well as generating new ideas that will help maintain a positive image for the organization.

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