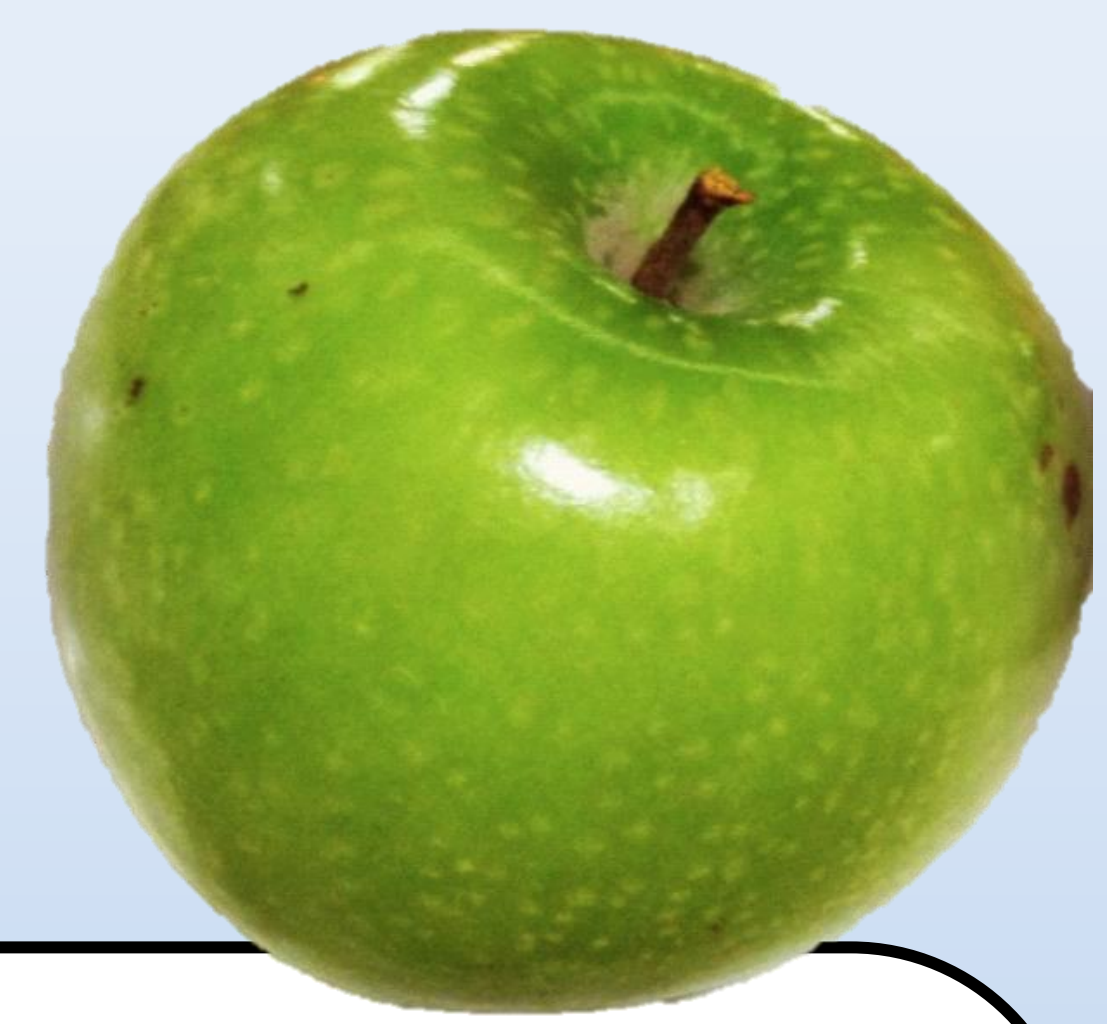


WPI

Food Accessibility Project

Sonya Maria Douglas, Rebecca Lee, Mollie Myers, Kyle Wijtmans
Advisors: Professors Jill Rulfs (Biology), Helen Vassallo (Management)



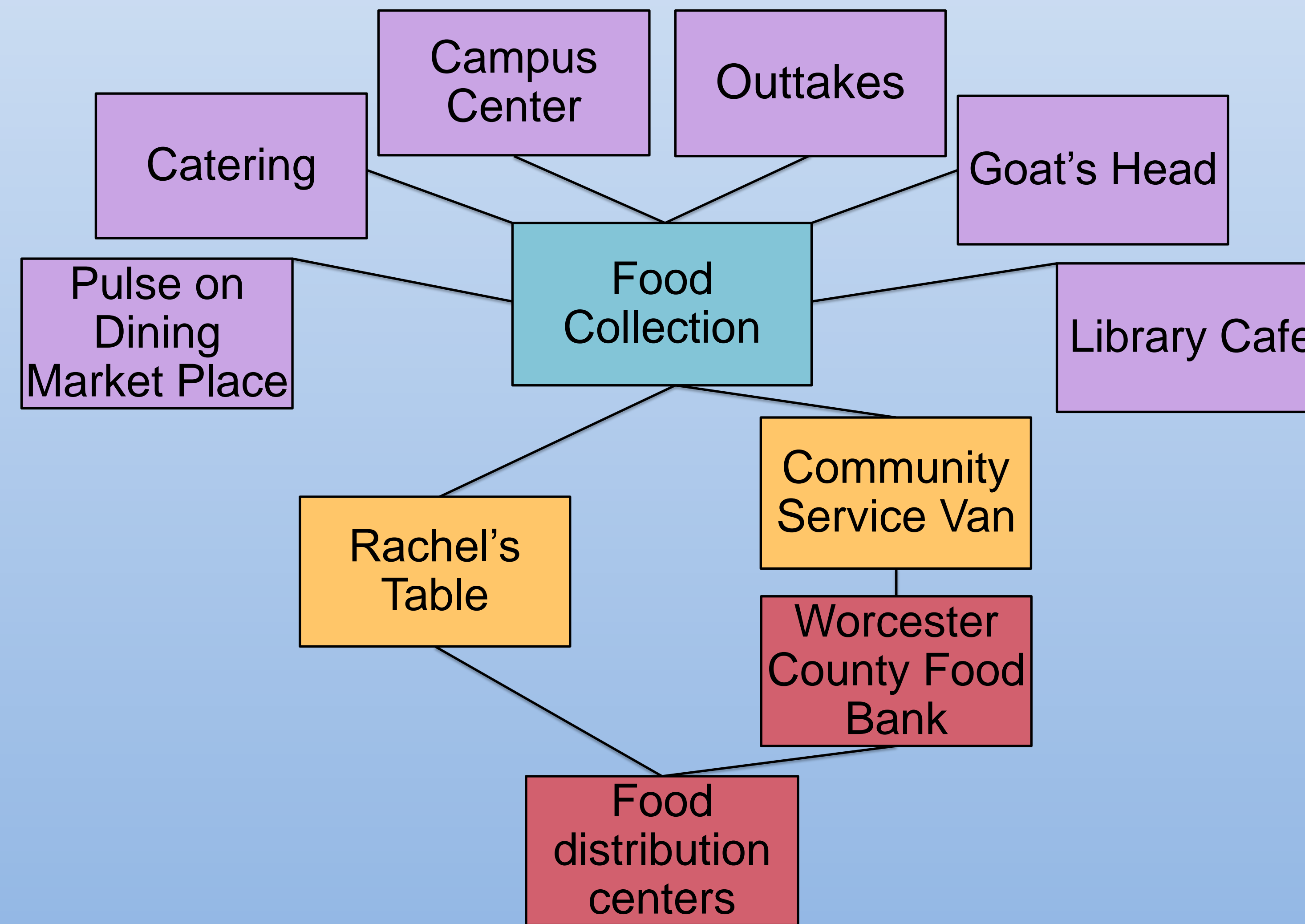
Abstract

In Worcester, there is a high prevalence of food insecurity and many families obtain food from local food banks. The Food Accessibility Program arranges for unused food from the WPI food services to be donated to local food banks.

Project Objectives

- Develop program to transport excess food from WPI to local food banks and distributors
- Determine feasibility of such a program
- Implement trial run

Flow of Excess Food from WPI



Results

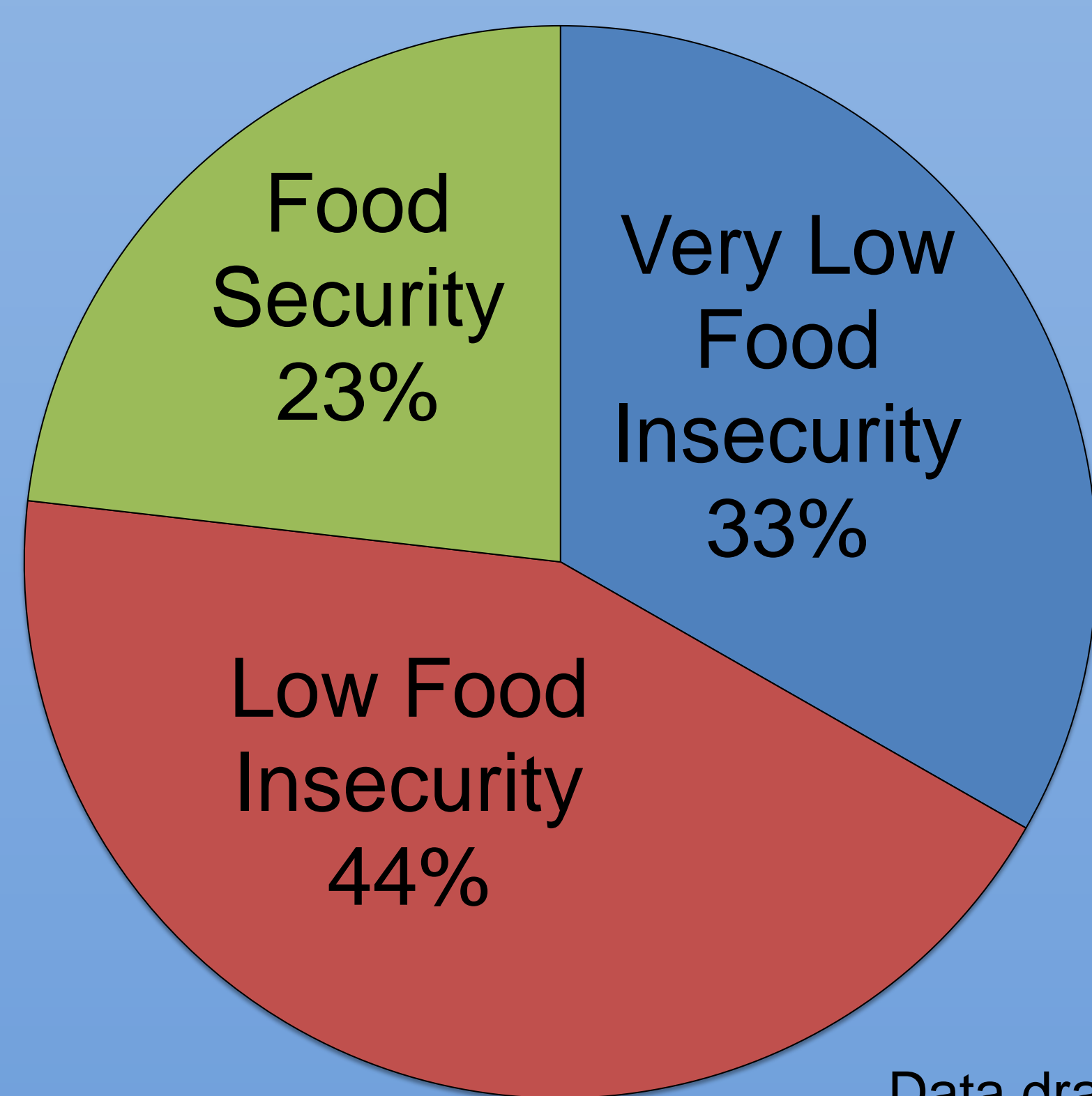
1. Feasibility

- Excess food when holidays begin
- Food donated to local food banks³
- No pre-existing organization to the donation effort³
- Community service van available to transport food⁴
- Worcester County Food Bank accepts donations from WPI³

2. Trial run

- 13 bags of fruit and vegetables
- 16 individual vegetable items
- Box of deli meats
- 2 bags of cookies

Food Insecurity Among Worcester County Food Bank Client Households



Data drawn from source 5

Methods

1. Feasibility

- Discussed program with Joe Kraskouskas
- Talked with Alpha Phi Omega and Community Service Center
- Contacted Worcester County Food Bank and Rachel's Table

2. Trial Run

- Coordinated with the Community Service Center and student driver
- Picked up food from Chartwells
- Dropped off food at Worcester County Food Bank

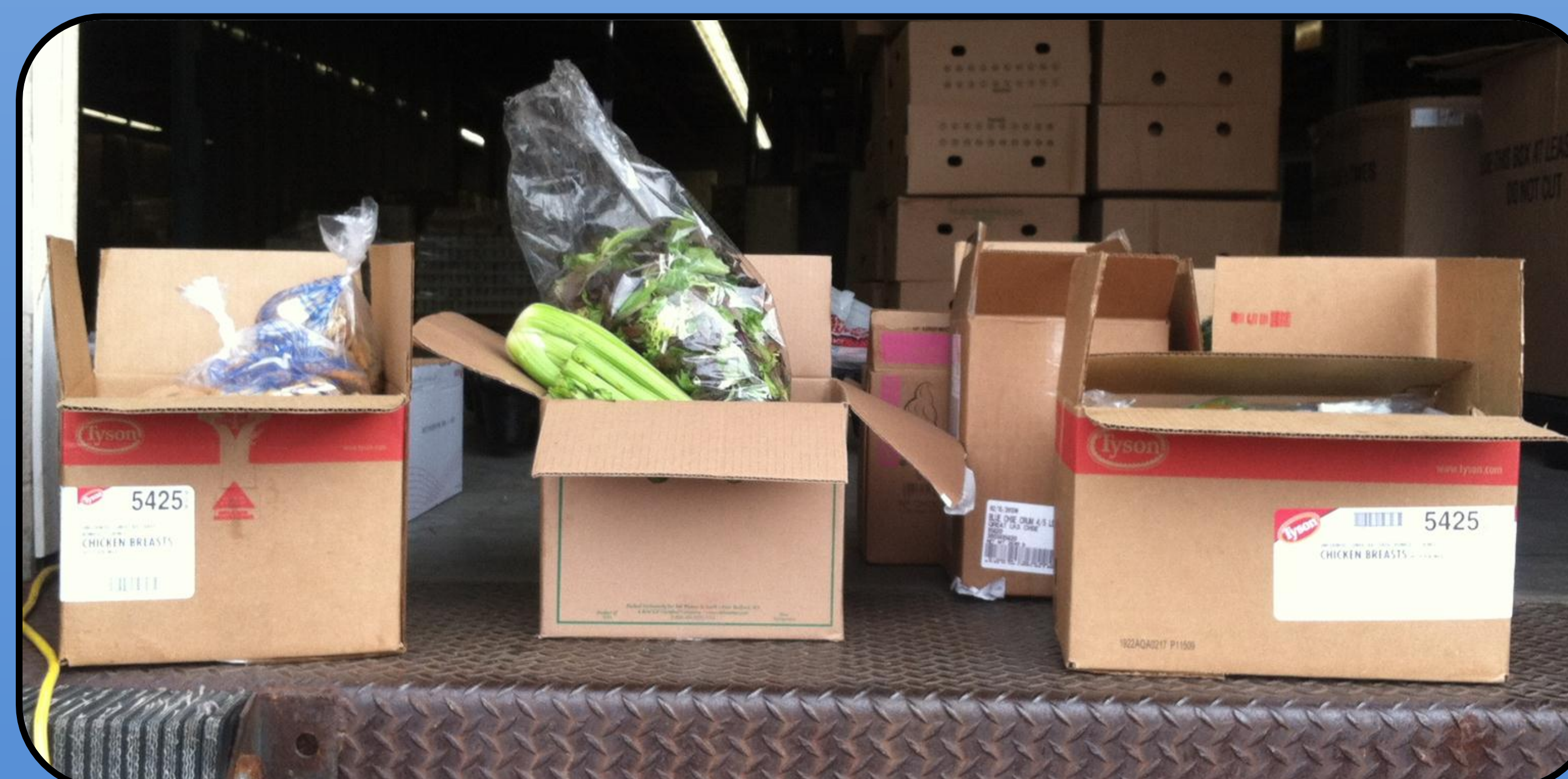


Conclusions

- The trial run was successful
- Developing the program would be feasible and useful
- Donations before major breaks would be more substantial
- Could be a model program for other colleges

Background

- In parts of Worcester, food insecurity is 6 times the national average, which is 11%^{1,6}
- Worcester County Food Bank serves 86,600 people annually⁵
- 1 in 3 children in Worcester live in a food insecure household¹
- Food insecurity has increased with food prices in the past few years²



Acknowledgments

We would like to acknowledge and thank Joe Kraskouskas, Jean G. McMurray, Lissa Kasakoff, Mallory Howard, and Armagan Sezer

Selected References

1. Castro, S. (n.d.). Worcester Food Advisory Policy Council: Hunger-free and healthy. Retrieved from http://www.worcesterfoodpolicy.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=43&Itemid=35
2. Cohen, M. J., & Garrett, J. L. (2010). The food price crisis and urban food (in)security. *Environment and Urbanization*, 22(2), 467-482. doi:10.1177/0956247810380375
3. Joe Kraskouskas, Personal Communication, November 15, 2012
4. Mallory Howard, Personal Communication, November 19, 2012
5. Mathematica Policy Research Inc., *Hunger in America 2010: Local Report Prepared for the Worcester County Food Bank*, 2001
6. Oliver, H. (2007). Nutrient deficiencies call for extra help. *Natural Foods Merchandiser*, 28(10), 32-34.0