



LYNN

UNIVERSITY

The Lynn Difference

Roadmap to reopening



A Perfect Storm



Why the library?

- Open late
- Open 7 days a week
- No one else was doing it



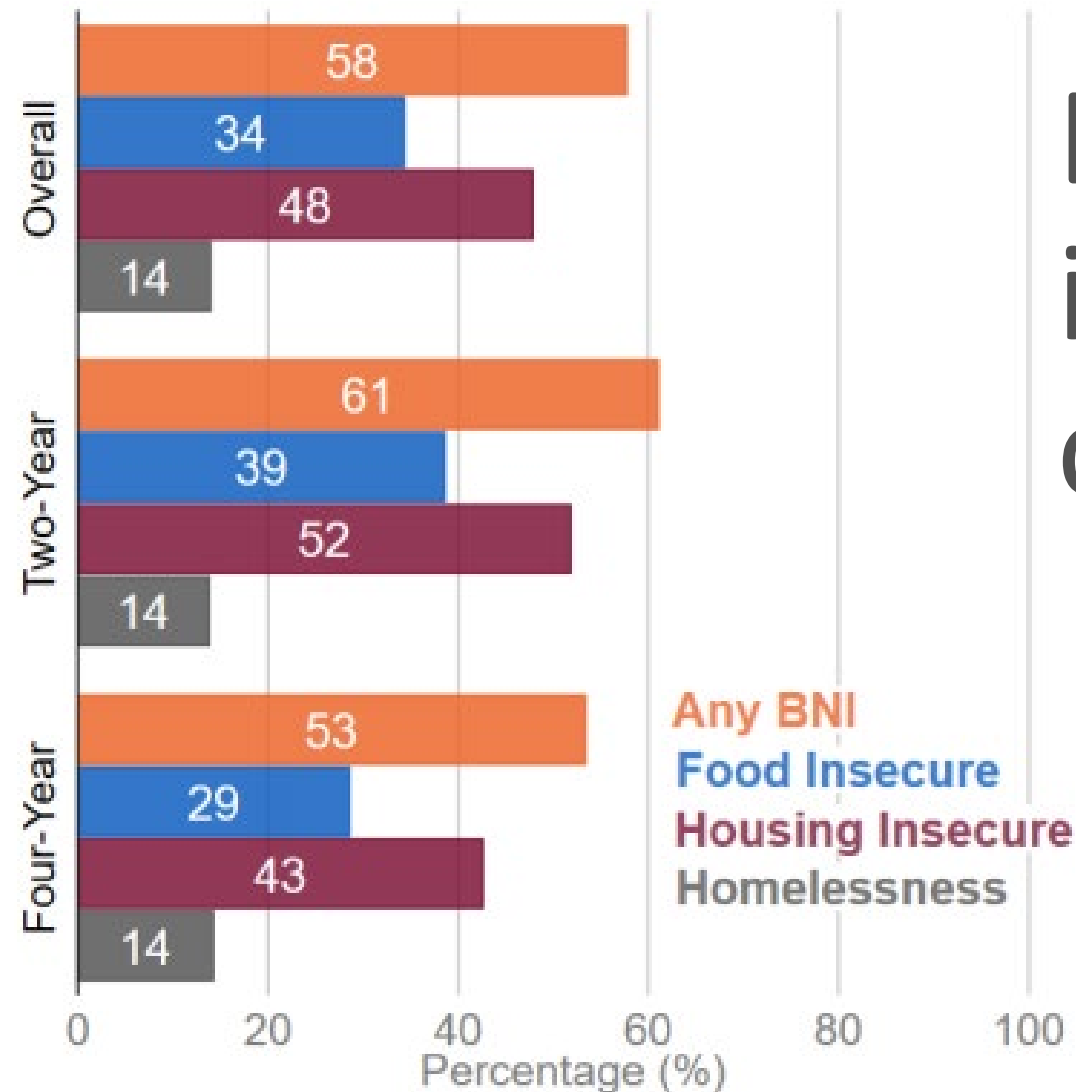
We started small...
Free menstrual products

The Food Closet...

One sign and a couple flyers



FIGURE 13 | BASIC NEEDS INSECURITY RATES, BY SECTOR



Basic needs insecurity on campus

The Hope Center for College, Community and Justice. (2021, March 31). *The Hope Center survey 2021: Basic needs insecurity during the ongoing pandemic*. <https://hope.temple.edu/sites/hope/files/media/document/HopeSurveyReport2021.pdf>

Students:

- Worry
- Can't get balanced meals
- Cut size of meals
- Skipped meals
- Went hungry
- Lost weight

FIGURE 15 | FOOD SECURITY QUESTIONS, BY SECTOR



NEARLY
3 IN 5
experienced
basic needs insecurity

FOOD INSECURITY
AFFECTED

39% at two-year
institutions

29% at four-year
institutions

HOUSING INSECURITY
AFFECTED



48%

HOMELESSNESS
AFFECTED

14%

 THE
BLACK/WHITE GAP
IN BASIC NEEDS
INSECURITY WAS
16 percentage
points

WE ALSO LEARNED...

41%
had a close friend or family
member who was sick with
COVID-19, while

7%
were sick with **COVID-19**
themselves

13%

LOST A LOVED ONE TO **COVID-19**

with Latinx students more than twice as likely
as White students to lose a loved one



35% of students exhibited
at least moderate anxiety

Among students
FACING BASIC NEEDS INSECURITY,
access to supports was limited

APPLIED FOR EMERGENCY AID **34%**

RECEIVED EMERGENCY AID **32%**

RECEIVED SNAP **18%**

52%

DID NOT APPLY FOR
SUPPORTS because they
did not know how



While vaccines offer hope for fall 2021, the impact of the pandemic will reverberate for years. Providing students the supports they need — including for their basic needs — is the best way to ensure they can complete degrees.

As a result, studies show that these students:

- Have lower GPAs (particularly Black/Latinx students)
- Have difficulty studying
- Have a decreased likelihood of college completion
- Have negative health effects
- Have greater depression/anxiety

Brescia, S. A., & Cuite, C. L. (2022). Underestimating college student food insecurity: Marginally food secure students may not be food secure. *Nutrients*, 14(15), 3142.
<https://doi.org/10.3390/nu14153142>

Laterman, K. (2019, May 2). Tuition or dinner? Nearly half of college students surveyed in a new report are going hungry. *New York Times*.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/02/nyregion/hunger-college-food-insecurity.html>

Lynn demographics

- 3,500 total students
- Demographics changing from stereotype of what Lynn used to be
- ~30% of new Lynn Freshmen in 2022 were first-generation students
- 18% Latinx/Hispanic
- 14% Black or mixed-race
- 16-20% international

Food Costs at Lynn

Residential students

Meal plans are required for all undergraduate residential students.

Room and board fee average is \$13,200.

For commuter students, most graduate students, or students who live in Capstone Apartments, meal plans are **not** included. Students can purchase a flex plan, or purchase one of three meal plans.

Per Semester:

Depending on the plan: \$3,200-\$3,550

Flex Plans:

Depending on the plan: Between \$7.80-8.70 per meal

Minimum package: 25 meal plan at \$218



Entrance to food closet from office area, with second doorway out to public area



View of library office area



Ramen, pasta, mac & cheese, ravioli, rice, soup, peanut butter, stuffing, instant potatoes, cereal, juice, granola bars, trail mix, pretzels, popcorn, instant cocoa, dried fruit, fruit snacks, crackers, chips, applesauce...



Plus shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, lotion and soap, and menstrual supplies in the restroom.

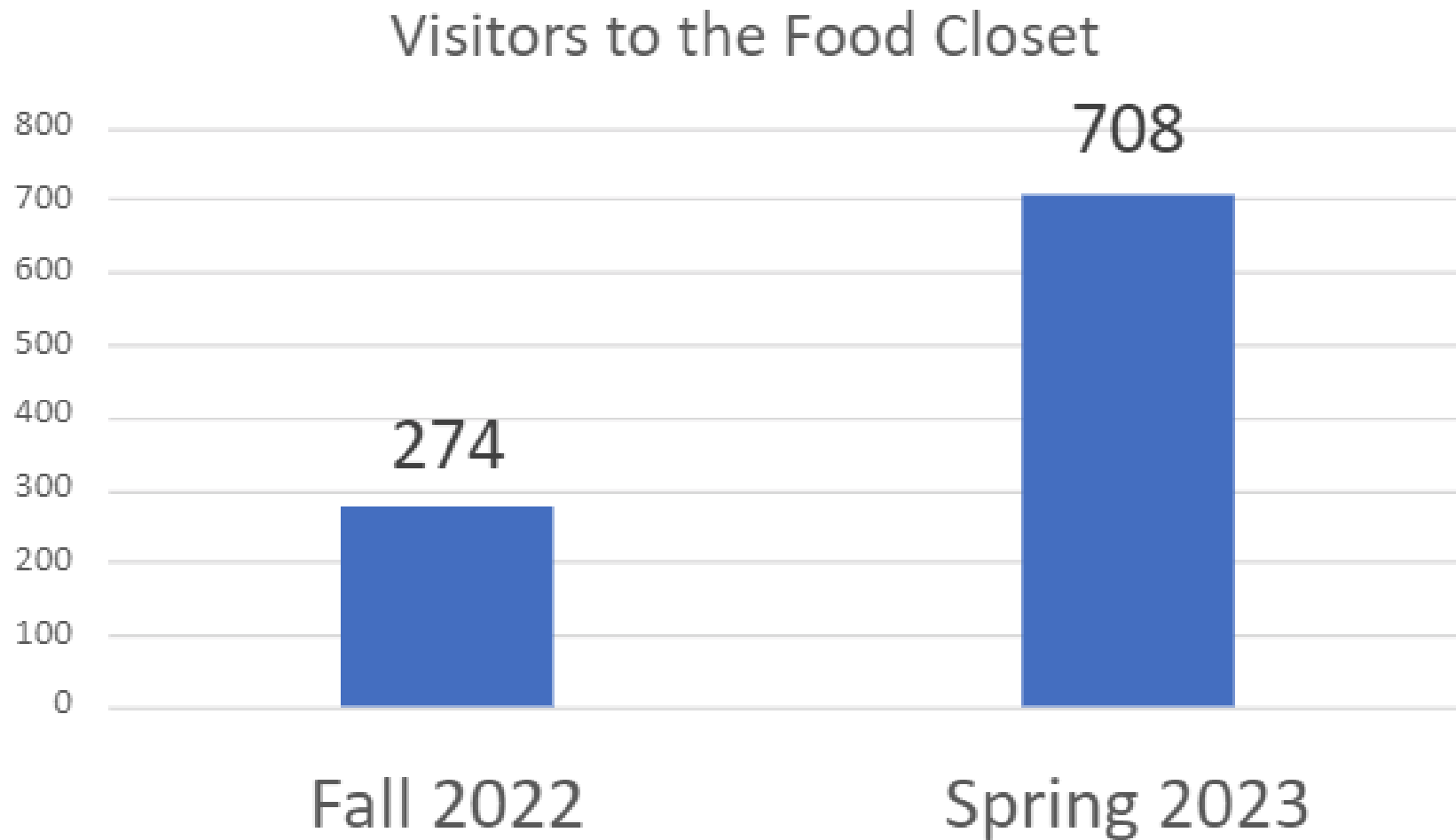
Immediate student interest!

- Word-of-mouth spread quickly
- We could see them texting their friends!
- Many return customers
- Students in library classrooms started using it as a "free snacks" stash
 - We had to reframe a little bit, while not ever excluding anyone who happened to just want snacks.
 - Made fewer snack-type foods available
 - Made more meal-type foods available
 - Followed student suggestions about what they wanted

Immediate interest and enthusiasm from other departments!

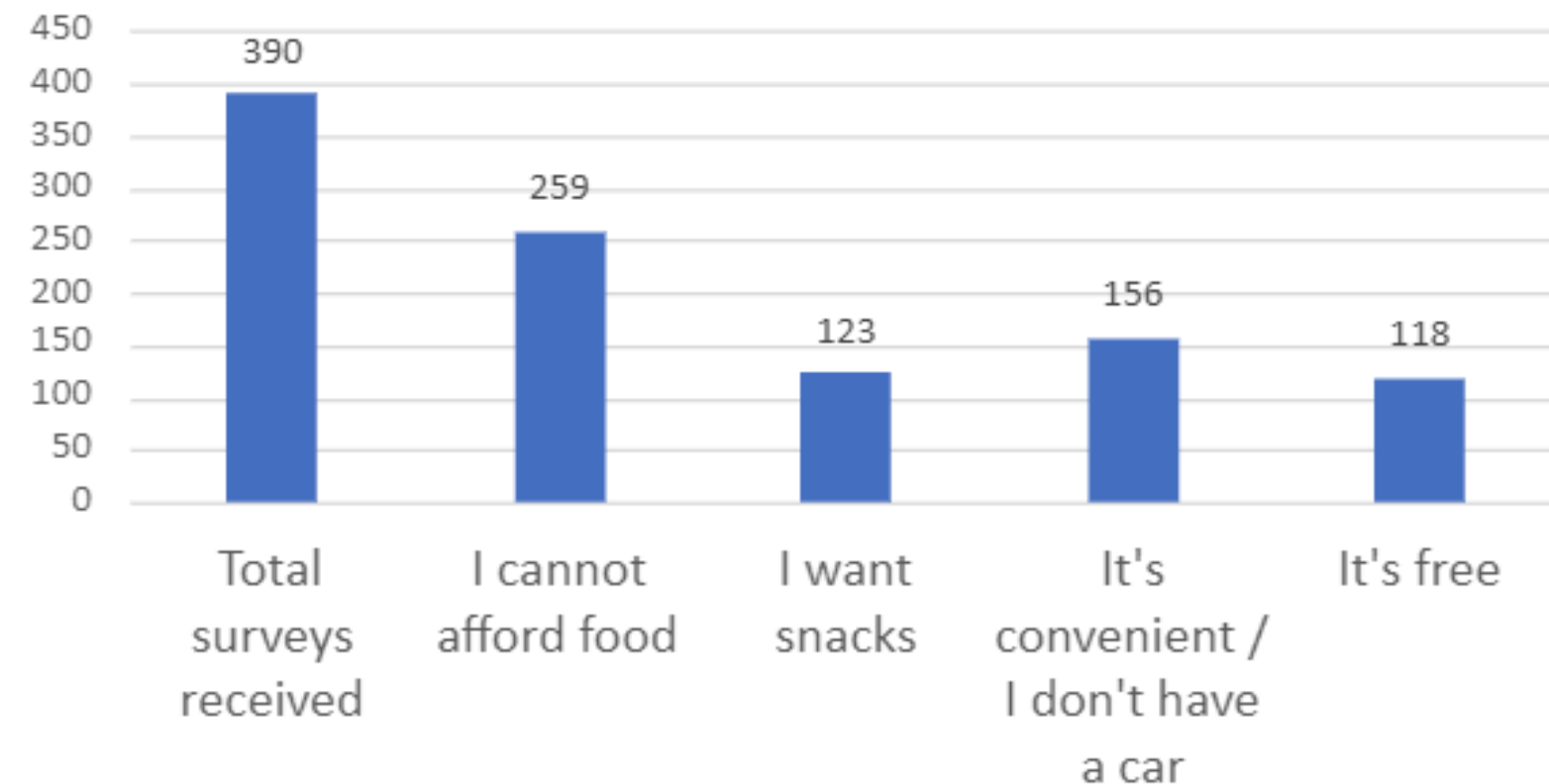
- Student Affairs: "What a fantastic idea!!"
- Health & Wellness
- Admissions
- Counseling Center
- Student Financial Services
- Student Wellness Ambassadors
- Student Newspaper

Usage Statistics



Anonymous Survey Results

Survey Results Fall 2022-Spring 2023



Please check one or more below and then place in the bin.

I use this pantry because:

- ☐ I cannot afford food
- ☐ I want snacks
- ☐ It's convenient/I don't have a car
- ☐ It's free

Comments?

Most popular items

- "Real food" items that someone could make a meal of, like pasta, rice, ramen.
- Juice
- Cereal
- Granola bars and other high-protein items
- Snacks – we cut back on buying snacks

Optional comments

- “Thank you for not letting me starve.”
- “I cannot pay rent/bills.”
- “I have \$1.70 to my name thank you.”
- “This helps me eat at least two meals. Thank you for thinking about students like me.”
- “I am experiencing extreme food insecurity and hunger. I just want to graduate.”
- “Thank you, this has been a life saver.”
- “I have a single mom, and I'm saving to pay for next year, thank you.”
- “Thank you for all you do for us!”

Total Cost

- \$4,913
- About \$1.22 per meal

If you need additional services (such as connections to ongoing aid, benefits, housing, or other care) please reach out to Lynn's Health & Wellness

Dept.:

Debra Futterman
dfutterman@lynn.edu
Charlotte Muriel
cmuriel@lynn.edu

They have case managers who can work with you!



Got funded for 2023-2024! ~\$6,000

- We created a LibGuide for food assistance and local options to get more help:
- <https://lynn-library.libguides.com/foodassistance>

Lynn / Library / Food Assistance at Lynn and Locally / Lynn Library Food Closet

Food Assistance at Lynn and Locally

The Lynn Library sponsors a food pantry, offering free nonperishable foods for food-insecure students, and there are other resources both at Lynn and locally in Boca to help.

Search this Guide

Search

Lynn Library Food Closet

Lynn Health & Wellness
Resources

Local Food Resources

The Food Closet

The Lynn Library sponsors a food pantry for food-insecure students in need. Stop by anytime the library is open to pick up free nonperishable foods. Toiletries and menstrual supplies are also available. The Food Closet is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from noon to 2:00 pm during the regular fall and spring terms, but you can go in anytime - just ask at the desk. We ask that you limit your selections to four items per day.

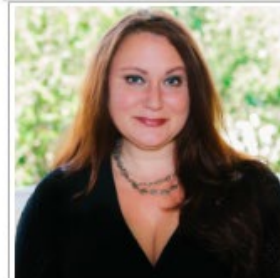
If you have questions, email library@lynn.edu or chat with a librarian at the [Lynn Library website](#).

Librarian



Stacy Alesi

Director of the Library



Amy Filiatreau

Email Me





Future Plans:

- Survey to determine need
- Sustainable partnerships
 - meal vouchers
 - partnering with agencies like Boca Helping Hands
- Promote it a lot more
- Get a card reader on the door: \$2000
- Request and accept donations (no receipts)
- Provide more fresh food, butter, seasonings, pots and pans

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