



Resource Bags for Unhoused Students at Western Carolina University

Completed By: Sarah Tisinger & Meredith Fletcher

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Affiliated Organization: The Emergency Management Student Association

Who Am I?

Sarah Tisinger

(She/Her)

Major: Emergency and Disaster Management

Minor(s): Leadership & International Studies

Year: Senior

Campus Involvement: President of The Emergency Management Student Association, American Red Cross Blood Drive Student Representative, Chancellor's Ambassador, WCU Cat Camp Counselor Alumni, Pinky Swear Pack Member, Cat Camp & F.L.I. Mentor.

Brinson Honors College Relation: Student, Student Employee & Previous Mini-Grant Awardee



So, why this project?

COMMUNITY-CENTERED

EDM – FOCUS ON
'VULNERABLE'
POPULATIONS

PEER APPLICABILITY

CAREER: NON-PROFIT
MANAGEMENT

OUTSIDE OF MY
SITUATION:
GREATER THAN SELF

Who Are Unhoused Students?

“An individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, such as those living in emergency shelters, transitional housing, or places not meant for habitation.”

- *Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (2023)*

Let's Talk Goals

Goals

Goal 1: Goal #1: Increase the number of available resources for displaced students at Western Carolina University.

Goal #2: Increase awareness of those within Cullowhee, NC that are experiencing housing insecurities.

Goal #3: Culminate various products that will reach fifteen unhoused students at Western Carolina University.

Particulars

(Q.) What items were placed in the 'bag'?

- Feminine pads – Hygiene & Large Wounds
- One bottle of electrolyte water - Dehydration
 - Antibacterial wipes – Hygiene
- One package of hand warmers – Cold Evenings
 - One first aid kit – Safety Precaution
 - One packaged meat strip – Protein Source
 - One toothbrush - Hygiene
- One package of Dove non-scented soap - Hygiene
 - One two-in-one shampoo and conditioner bar - Hygiene
 - One triple-action toothpaste - Hygiene
- Two packages of packaged pretzels - Prepackaged Snack
- Three packages of fruit snacks – Prepackaged Snack
- One package of trail mix – Protein (Assorted w/ & w/o nuts)



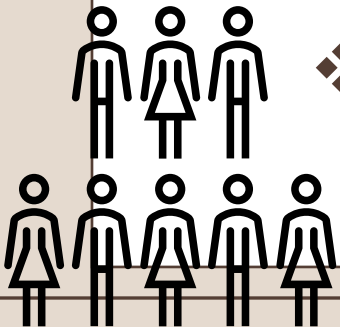
Where Do We Go From Here?

- Advocate – Create a safe and inclusive space for your peers
- Research – How many students across North Carolina are unhoused? How can I be a supportive peer? Where can I make a difference?
- Partner with campus Departments & Agencies in YOUR Community



What Advice Do You Have For A Student Before They Start Doing A Service Project?

- ❖ You are never alone.
- ❖ Network with campus Departments.
- ❖ Serve the community that engages your passions & challenges you.
- ❖ Be an active listener.



Specifics

Number of People Served: Fifteen
Number of Bags Created: Fifteen
Partnering Departments/Agencies:
HOMEBASE Campus Ministry &
W.C.U. Orientation Office



What Did You Learn From this Service Experience?

“We learned the value of practicing active listening. When creating a space for others to talk about their experiences, we can work together to create a viable and sustainable ‘wave’ for change.”





thank you.