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# **ECH Findings**

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# **The Agency**

End Campus Hunger Is a food pantry established in the year 2016. ECH solicits donations and distribute food to Old Dominion University students to end chronic hunger and food insecurity. SCH makes weekly food distributions around campus to students while classes are in session during the summer spring and fall semesters. He Ch is in the Web Center at 1301 W 49th St Norfolk VA 23529. E Ch provides students an opportunity to receive information on healthy living, financial literacy as well. The stake holders of the organization identified as the volunteers, the people in the community that offer time to help achieve the overall goal of our organization, A commitment to end food insecurity and chronic hunger among old dominion university students seek volunteers to volunteer their time and help administer the program usually requesting that participants volunteer 2 hours a week to assist. The program seeks to improve the sense of community experienced by all students involved.

# **Research Questions**

The qualitative question: How has coordination and leadership at EC H impacted the sense of community at Old Dominion University? The quantitative question: What is the current trend in people helped (by weight of food) in the past five years? A written questionnaire was drafted for researching measuring the trends in people helped, our qualitative question. Our quantitative question of how our volunteers our forging a sense of community on campus and its immediate surrounding area will be conducted by reviewing all records and any other viable documentation available. There were five questions on the questionnaire. They were as follows:

1. What has your experience been so far at ECH?
2. What has been a deterrent from helping you achieve a greater sense of community since volunteering at ECH?
3. What are things that ECH can do to help you to achieve a greater sense of community on campus and the surrounding area?
4. What do you feel that the community needs to bridge the gap between the community and ECH?
5. What has helped your efforts of volunteerism the most?

# **Results**

The past four years of data Bing years 2017 through 2020 the number of participants has declined significantly, although 2019 saw a slight uptake in number of participants. Thirty-three less participants over the four-year span. This directly affects the amount of food distributed per week in pounds. In 2017 food distribution peaked at one thousand pounds per week. The four-year span saw a decline in distributed food by 170 pounds of food per week. Our participants in the program have a desire to want the program to succeed overall. The written questionnaire we disbursed garnered a consistent response. There seems to be consensus of wanting the organization to work towards better organization and clarity. The stakeholders are front and center and engaging with the population served. This information gives us general idea of what will assist the organization in setting and meeting attainable goals.

##  **Conclusion**

It is my opinion that through research the collected data suggests that ECH is not meeting their organizational goals. They are serving the community well, but year over year the data shows there is a decline in volunteerism which leads to a much lower amount of food distribution weekly.

 **Recommendations**

Include the community in the brainstorming and planning of events. This could include but not limited to fundraising events. This is a way to directly involve the stakeholders in the process. By doing this there is a space for more open communication about the needs of the organization. Ideas that may draw more community members towards volunteerism. All impacting the total pounds per week distributed and bringing about a more organized. I also recommend forming an organizational structure. There needs to be people in charge of specific areas of the organization. This way all the volunteers have better direction and understanding of the functions of the organization.