



## 2024 Campus Race to Zero Waste Case Study University of California Irvine

### Contact info

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### Focus of Case study

Move Out Donation Drive led by *Food Recovery Network at UCI* and *UCI Housing Sustainability* to reduce food waste through excess food collection and donation.

### Detailed description of campaign or effort:

*Food Recovery Network at UCI* (FRN) is a student-led and award-winning campus organization that aims to reduce food waste and food insecurity through volunteer efforts. We worked with *UCI Housing Sustainability* to coordinate excess food collection in the annual Move Out Donation Drive (MODD). As undergraduate students move out at the end of the academic year, it is important to reduce the amount of waste left behind. At the end of this Spring quarter, FRN and Housing Sustainability successfully collected 2,500 pounds of food and donated it to the non-profit pantry Mary's Kitchen in Anaheim, CA.

### Planning steps & timeline to implement:

- Early May Discuss MODD with UCI Housing: UCI Housing hosts a Move Out Donation Drive in three undergraduate communities: Arroyo Vista, Middle Earth, and Mesa Court. We worked with the director of Housing Sustainability, Rachel Harvey to coordinate FRN leading the food waste reduction efforts for MODD.
- Middle of May Contact food pantry partners: We contacted Mary's Kitchen in Anaheim, CA to see if they had the capacity to take the MODD food. After confirming they did, we secured a pick-up date and time for Mary's Kitchen to collect our boxes of food from campus.
- May 24<sup>th</sup>, May 28<sup>th</sup>, and May 29<sup>th</sup> Set up food donation boxes: FRN graphic designer Chloe Wilson designed our MODD food collection graphic. Approximately 15 students set up donation boxes over the course of three days in each undergraduate housing building. 105 boxes were set up, one in each building and two in each tower.
  - Arroyo Vista: 42 buildings with 1,046 residents
  - Middle Earth: 24 buildings with 1,784 residents and 2 towers with 640 residents
  - Mesa Court: 29 buildings with 2,044 residents and 3 towers with 1,016 residents

- June 7<sup>th</sup> FRN Call for volunteers: Posted on Instagram a call for volunteers to help with donation box collection, sorting, and weighing.
- June 15<sup>th</sup>, June 17<sup>th</sup>, and June 18<sup>th</sup> Collect donation boxes and sort/weigh contents: Approximately 8 volunteers per day. Collected donation boxes from the resident halls on June 15<sup>th</sup> and moved them to a central location in Middle Earth. We then finished weighing and sorting on June 17<sup>th</sup> and June 18<sup>th</sup>. We sorted donation items into categories: canned goods, pasta/rice/noodles, snacks, toiletries, and teas/coffees. We took out opened items and small items with no expiration dates. We weighed the contents on a large scale and packed the sorted items into the same MODD donation boxes for shipping.
- June 18<sup>th</sup> Mary's Kitchen pick up: We loaded the donation boxes into Mary's Kitchen's truck.

### **Resources and stakeholders involved**

Both FRN and Housing Sustainability representatives helped set up, collect, weigh, sort, package, and load food donations. FRN designed the donation box graphics, designed and posted a call for volunteers on Instagram, and coordinated the food pickup with Mary's Kitchen. Housing Sustainability provided a room in Middle Earth for June 15<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> to work in, campus golf carts to set up/collect donation boxes, staff to enter the undergraduate buildings, and purchased donation boxes/tape. The entire process was supported by approximately 30 individuals including Housing Sustainability professional staff, Housing Sustainability student staff, FRN leadership, and FRN volunteers.

### **Describe the Results of this campaign component**

- General results** Undergraduate residents were able to donate their excess food and contribute to our school's sustainability initiatives.
- Specific measurable impact figures, if applicable** About 2,500 pounds (2,467.2 exactly) of food from about 6,500 undergraduate residents was collected and donated to Mary's Kitchen.

### **What would you do differently in the future?**

After donating to Mary's Kitchen, we were told that they accept frozen goods. Next year we aim to coordinate a way for students to donate their frozen goods in addition to shelf-safe items.

### **What advice would you give to another college that wanted to do a similar effort?**

Setting up the boxes 3 weeks before the move out deadline (June 17<sup>th</sup>) informed students in advance and allowed us to collect food from students moving out early. Detailed graphics on the donation boxes are important so that students can easily find out what is eligible for donation.

### **Photos and Graphics**

Image 1- MODD box graphic by Chloe Wilson

Image 2- MODD box set up by Chloe Selby

Image 3- box set up volunteers by Nicole Nielsen

Image 4- full donation boxes by Chloe Selby

Image 5- sorting donation boxes by Nicole Nielsen

Image 6- packed donation boxes by Nicole Nielsen

Image 7- loading Mary's Kitchen truck by UCI Housing staff

Image 8- loading Mary's Kitchen truck by UCI Housing staff

Image 9- FRN call for volunteer Instagram post by Kayla Hogan and Katie Maddux

# FOOD DRIVE DONATION BIN

FOOD RECOVERY NETWORK AT UCI

FROM NOW UNTIL MOVE OUT, DONATE FOOD DIRECTLY TO LOCAL FOOD BANKS AND PANTRIES!

<b>ACCEPTED DONATIONS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unopened Toiletries</li><li>• Non-Perishable Foods<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Canned foods</li><li>• Dry Foods</li><li>• Oil and Seasoning</li></ul></li></ul>	
<b>NOT ACCEPTED</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Opened Items</li><li>• Perishable Foods</li></ul>	

Food Recovery Network at UCI (FRNUCI) is a club dedicated to fighting food waste and food insecurity in the community. Follow us at @FRNUCI on Instagram to learn more!







frnuci

# Move Out Donation Drive

Join FRNUCI to collect and donate food to local organizations!  
AV, Middle Earth, & Mesa Court

June 15, 17, 18, & 20  
2 hour shifts, 9:30-3:00  
Sign up sheet linked in bio!

View insights [Boost post](#)

13 likes

frnuci Interested in volunteering to reduce food waste on campus? Looking for a great way to send off the school year?

Join FRN@UCI to assist with the end of year move out donation drive at Arroyo Vista, Mesa Court, and Middle Earth! We will be collecting and donating food surplus to local organizations. Sign up at the link in our bio for 2+ hour shifts on June 15, 17, 18, and 20! 🍌💚

June 7