FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Temporary Food Pantry Opens on Iowa State Campus

Ames, IA - Recognizing a need that better serves the community, a temporary food pantry will open its doors on campus.

Recent ISU data shows that about 25% of ISU students are food insecure. During this time, access to basic needs like food has been a significant challenge for many students and families.

To help solve the problem, units within the Division of Student Affairs with support from the Cyclone Strong Fund have combined resources to open a food pantry on Wednesday, April 29, in the Union Drive Community Center (207 Beyer Ct), on the west side of campus.

“Supporting students’ wellbeing and their basic needs is critical as it directly affects so many areas of their lives including their academic performance,” said Brian Vanderheyden, Director of Student Wellness. “This is one of many ways that the Division of Student Affairs and Iowa State University is working to prioritize student wellbeing and their success during this time.”

Located in West Side Market, the pantry will provide a bag of groceries to anyone that needs food assistance. The bags will include a variety of canned and dry goods as well as fresh produce, meat and dairy (dairy alternative) items. Campus dietitians have also created recipe cards that will be in each bag of groceries to help with meal ideas and utilize the food-pantry products.

Hours of operation will be Tuesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The process will be quick and simple. Patrons should use the north east lower-level entrance and follow the posted instructions.

Any students and their families are welcome to take part in this service. Students just need to show up, follow the posted instructions and get the food they need.

“There can be a lot of social stigma and barriers to accessing food assistance for students,” said Vanderheyden. “No judgement, no questions asked. Just show up and receive food.”

Vanderheyden stresses that this program is for any student who needs some support. As an example, if a person can get some free groceries with this program, they can use that grocery money to help pay for other basic needs like rent, housing, utilities, personal care items, etc.
“Basic needs are all connected,” he said, “and if this can help – we want students to know then this resource is for them.”

In March, the Iowa State University Foundation launched “Together We Are #CycloneStrong” to enable Iowa State alumni and friends to support their fellow Cyclones during the COVID-19 pandemic. The fund is helping to fill needs for students and others on campus. To date, more than 245 donors have contributed over $52,000 to help the campus community. Contributions continue to be welcome.

Find updates about the Cyclone Strong Fund on the project page, https://fundisu.foundation.iastate.edu/CycloneStrong, and by following the ISU Foundation on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn.