



THE PROMISE HOUSE

Otterbein's Resource Center & Food Pantry

FALL 2021



Food Justice

The Promise House re-opened its doors to in-person shopping at the start of the Fall semester. We used this transition as an opportunity to re-assess how to serve our members. We chose to apply many of our new technologies adopted during COVID to our previous in-person shopping systems. We replaced paper shopping forms with a virtual form that students use to mark how many items they select from the market. Thanks to a generous donation of iPads, we were able to transition our paper membership forms to electronic versions, and provide iPads for students to use while shopping. These new systems improved the student shopping experience, and enabled us to collect and track data more effectively. Since re-opening, we have seen our weekly shops more than **triple**.

Up Next

- **RESOURCE HUB:** We are developing a resource hub to connect students to campus and community resources through trained peer coaches. We hope to debut the program by Fall of '22.
- **PAVILION:** Courtesy of the class of '71, we are building a pavilion at the Otterbein Community Garden to provide an outdoor classroom and house our educational food justice programming.



Social Enterprise

This year we debuted our Promise House Social Enterprise at the Westerville Farmers Market and on-campus pop-ups. Our team of **15 students** handmade value-added crafts such as tea blends using herbs from the Otterbein community garden, hand painted garden markers, and handcrafted buttons and bracelets. Through selling the crafts at the markets, our students fundraised **\$1,134** for the Promise House, in addition they gained valuable professional skills such as developing a business plan, managing inventory, customer service, and tracking sales. Each week our market team also recovered donated produce from over **38 vendors** to provide fresh fruit and vegetables to our Promise House shoppers.



Community

The Promise House has seen continued success in utilizing our electric bike to meet students where they are, connect them to our resources, and de-stigmatize the Promise House through pop-up events. This semester, our coordinators and volunteers hosted **26 weekly pop-up events** distributing free fresh produce, Panera bread, hot chocolate and school supplies to students. To engage with their peers, our team chose to relocate our pop-ups to the front of the library, where we served an average of **50 students** per pop-up. With COVID restrictions loosening, we also brought back our popular free foodie events, providing late-night slices of Cardinal Pizza and free Chipotle burritos to students during finals week.

By the Numbers...

- **615** total shopping trips provided
- **214** individual shoppers served
- **610** free meal swipes distributed
- **48** community events, workshops and presentations
- **\$6,942.72** donated to The Promise House by individuals, organizations and departments
- **5,129.37** lbs of goods donated to The Promise House
- **1,041** lbs of food rescued from the Westerville Farmers Market
- **157** volunteer hours



OTTERBEIN UNIVERSITY
COMMUNITY GARDEN

Otterbein Community Garden

A Signature Experiential Learning Landscape

2021



Sustainability

Permaculture techniques help sustain the local environment.



Hunger Relief

Over 2600 pounds of produce supports students and local families.



Volunteerism

Students and local youth connect learning to garden activities.



Accessibility

Our raised beds provide the opportunity for everyone to get involved.



Partnerships

Our garden relies on the tight bonds with our community partners.



Habitat Restoration

We have restored a brownfield so can call the garden home.



Research

Students use the scientific method to inform our gardening strategies.



Upcycling

The use of recycled materials ensures that nothing goes to waste.



Youth Engagement

Programming for youth provides green play and teaches about gardening, animals, and pollinators.



Composting

Composting helps us to reduce waste and provides great organic fertilizer for crops.



Tree USA Orchard

The garden is home to a wide variety of fruit trees that provide local produce.



Pollinators

Our pollinator garden preserves the insects needed to host a healthy garden ecosystem.

By the Numbers . . .

- Over **1000** student, youth, and community participants annually
- **75** weekly programs and **six** signature events each year
- **2690** pounds of food donated to The Promise House, Worthington Food Pantry and Resource Center, Food Not Bombs, and WARM in 2021
- **72** different herbs, flowers, and produce planted