

Organization Name: Food4Lives

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Organization Mission: Food4Lives is a community organization that aims to facilitate community relationships and character development through service. We offer volunteer opportunities and connect those with the heart to serve with those who are humble enough to receive. We support people experiencing homelessness and low income communities through daily outreach providing fresh food, clothes, and medical supplies to camps and neighborhoods around Atlanta. Since the outbreak of Covid-19, volunteers have also regularly served lunch to frontline hospital workers.

Social Innovation Statement: We are startup grassroots service organization in Atlanta and Athens, GA scaling to a national platform for selfless community service. We cultivate the desire in people's hearts to serve, and direct that in a cooperative, community effort to tackle Atlanta's biggest problems. We coordinate large-scale volunteer and crowdsourcing campaigns to serve in community projects, designed to facilitate dialogue, reflection and optimism about changing the world. Some of our projects have included cleaning the streets of Atlanta, serving daily fresh food to homeless camps around Atlanta, making lunch for thousands of frontline hospital workers during the covid-19 crisis, distributing thousands of sleeping bags, jackets, and blankets during the cold months, and daily hot tea distribution.

Internship Semester: Summer 2021

Project Title #1: No Food Waste in Atlanta

Keywords: Communication, Community Partnership, Supply Chain Management

SLS Priority Issue Areas: Community Health, Equitable Development

Priority SDGs: Zero Hunger (2), Good Health and Well-being (3), Partnerships for the Goals (17)

Project Background: The Atlanta Community Food Bank is among the most effective food banks in the nation. Vice President Jon West told us in a presentation "We could accept twice as much food from grocery stores in Atlanta than we already do, but the bottleneck is in the smaller grassroots community organizations that distribute what we save." Food from grocery stores is saved by food banks in a trickle-down donation system that reaches gradually smaller organizations, and food is wasted on every level. Food4Lives has a larger capacity for receiving, storing, and distributing donations than most organizations on our level. As a result, we have a larger responsibility for food waste, and are looking for a passionate recycling-composting-minded individual to help us. The intern will dive into the heart of the problems we tackle, leading an guided project to research, ideate, design, and implement a system for processing donations that maximizes utility and minimizes waste. There is a process in place that designed by Georgia Tech students and alumni. We know it could be better, and students will get first hand experience of challenges to explore their own creative ideas and innovative solutions. We have a closely knit community and the intern will work on their own project alongside us with the guidance of two mentors.

Project Timeline: This project will be designed and implemented during the summer.

Desired skills and qualifications: Communication skills (writing and verbal); Organizational skills; Creativity

Deliverables: Flow Map of Trickle down with waste assessment at each level; Process Design and communication plan to better distribute food

Project Title #2: To Make Homeless Meals More Nutritious

Keywords: Public Health, Community Leadership, Outreach

SLS Priority Issue Areas: Community Health, Civic Data

Priority SDGs: Good Health and Well-being (3), Sustainable Cities and Communities (11), Responsible Consumption and Production (12)

Project Background: One of the nationally recognized challenges of homelessness outreach is prioritizing quality of food over quantity. We are in the working stage of an initiative to integrate local, seasonal food into our meals to offer the highest quality food possible. We are seeking a culinary-minded intern interested in outreach to help focus the dietary weaknesses of existing diets and to explore necessary changes to our cooking and distribution process to meet those needs. This is a team project, and the intern will lead the research and process design, along with several of our volunteer outreach team and under the guidance of two mentors.

Project Timeline: This summer will see our first batches of fresh organic produce, and the intern will see out the first implementation of our new menu system.

Desired skills and qualifications: Social skills, Basic knowledge of food and nutrition, Systems design

Deliverables: Research Brief of diets of homeless in Atlanta and their nutritional deficits; A design for integrating fresh produce into our fresh food distribution chain