

Section 1. Organizational Information

Organization Name

Mailing Address

City

State

Zip

Authorized Officer for this Grant

Individual's Email Address

Individual's Title

Individual's Phone Number

Have the grant funds been fully expended?

Yes

No

If "No," stop here and contact The Joanna Foundation for consultation.

*Section 2. Grant Summary*Start Date *(date on p.1 - mm/dd/yyyy)*

Grant Amount

Project Title

Overall Purpose *(select one)*

Operating support

Matching funds

Administrative/technical support

Capital campaign

Seed money/startup funds

Facilities/equipment

Specific project/program *(insert title or one sentence summary below)*

Were major changes made to the project after the grant was received?

Yes

No

If "Yes," please explain why and summarize the changes as part of your Summary of Impact.

Section 3. Summary of Impact

Separately, using software of your choice, write a concise summary of how the grant helped achieve the objective of the request. For example, you may mention activities to date, progress toward milestones, participation by volunteers, partners or audience members, and/or significant achievements. You may use metrics to show change or anecdotal examples to illustrate impact. You may use bullets or lists. Describe the difference that The Joanna Foundation grant made to your organization in this time frame. We recommend one page of text or less. You may add items that showcase your work, such as a photo, graphic, chart, media article, testimonial, or link to a short video.

When you are satisfied with your draft, save your Summary of Impact in pdf format, attach any additions, insert your material after this page, and submit the combined file (consisting of this 2-pg form + your materials) as a single pdf file.

The TTC Grocery Vault: A Report to The Joanna Foundation

March 2024

The Fall 2021 Hope Survey revealed that 39% of community college students experienced food insecurity. To address the problem, students at Trident Technical College established the Grocery Vault. In the first year, it served over 260 people. Since then, the Grocery Vault has been institutionalized to ensure program sustainability, and the demand for services has increased significantly, clearly reflecting a common challenge since the percentage of food insecure students has risen to an alarming 47% (Hope Survey).

"The Grocery Vault helps me to stay in school because I am able to focus on learning without focusing on how I'm going to eat."

In 2023, the generous support of The Joanna Foundation helped the Grocery Vault **serve 528 clients** and a further 175 clients in the first three months of 2024, suggesting this year will be ever busier.

New Online Interface

In January 2024, the Grocery Vault opened a new PantrySoft storefront, allowing students to place online orders in a familiar format that resembles the online shopping experiences found, for example, at Instacart. The new software also allows for better recordkeeping, direct email contact with clients, and sharing information about additional resources.

Program Evaluation / Impact

During the grant period, the college's Institutional Research team conducted an analysis of Grocery Vault's impact on clients. A binary logistic regression analysis was conducted on Spring 2024 students to examine the effect of Grocery Vault usage on Spring-to-Fall retention. Results of crosstabulations showed that 80% of Grocery Vault clients returned in the Fall. A follow-up binary logistic regression analysis was conducted to control for demographics and college-going characteristics. Results of the follow-up analysis indicated that **among those students reporting food insecurity, Grocery Vault users were 3.5 times more likely to return in the Fall than those who did not utilize the service.** For more information on the analysis, please see the Grocery Vault Infographic below.

"Being a single mom and going to school is not easy, as well as trying to work full-time to provide. The grocery vault helps me by giving my family the essential needs in this time."

The results strongly suggest that TTC's Grocery Vault is a critical resource for student success among students who are food insecure, helping them work toward their educational and career goals for a healthy and strong future.

Meeting Students' Basic Needs

Battling food insecurity: the story of the Grocery Vault, a food bank at Trident Technical College

#Real College Survey Hope Center, Temple University

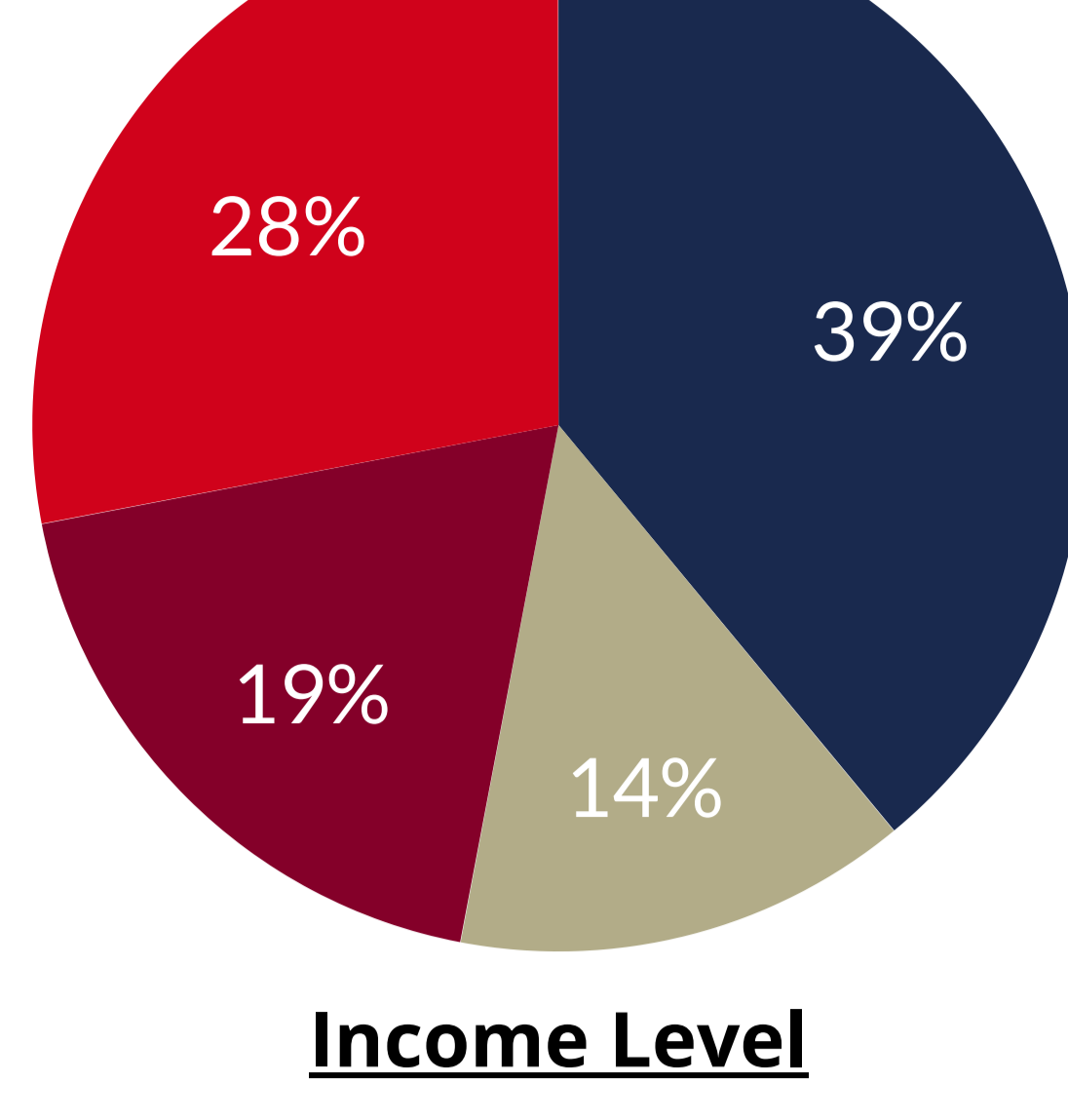
The #RealCollege Survey is the nation's largest annual assessment of students' basic needs including **food insecurity**, housing insecurity, and homelessness.



Food Insecurity

is the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe food, or the ability to acquire such food in a socially acceptable manner

Food Security Among Students at Two-Year Institutions



Income Level: High (39%), Marginal (14%), Low (19%), Very Low (28%)

According to the USDA, students at the low or very low levels are considered "food insecure." Using this benchmark, **47%** of students at two-year institutions are **food insecure**.

6 BENEFITS of food security for students

- 1 Better physical and mental health
- 2 Reduced levels of stress, anxiety, and depression
- 3 Lower rates of medical conditions, such as hypertension, hyperlipidemia, and diabetes
- 4 Higher GPAs
- 5 Better ability to focus on academics
- 6 Persistence in achieving educational goals

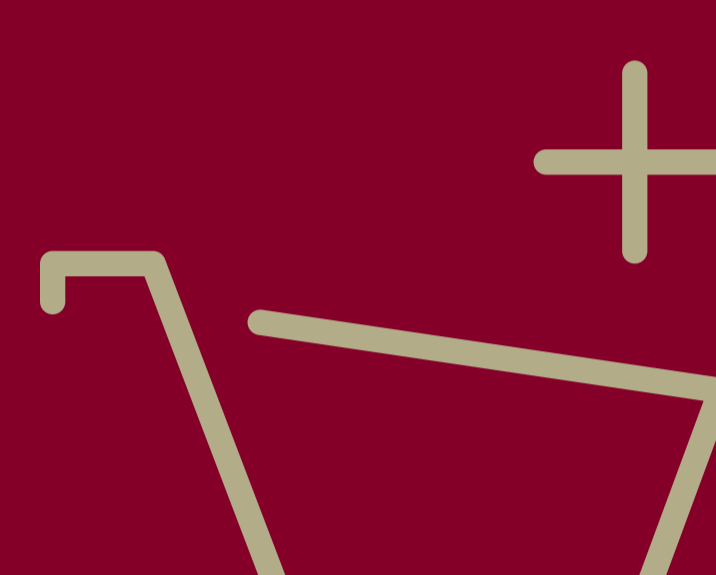
Sources: Bruening et al., 2018; El Zein et al., 2018; Jesch et al., 2021; Maroto et al., 2015; CERS Open Students (retention analysis)

Since June 2021...



Over **1,200** students have expressed interest in provided services

TTC's Grocery Vault has fulfilled over **2,800** orders



Between **30 and 40** students per week receive an order

How do TTC Students Benefit from the Grocery Vault?

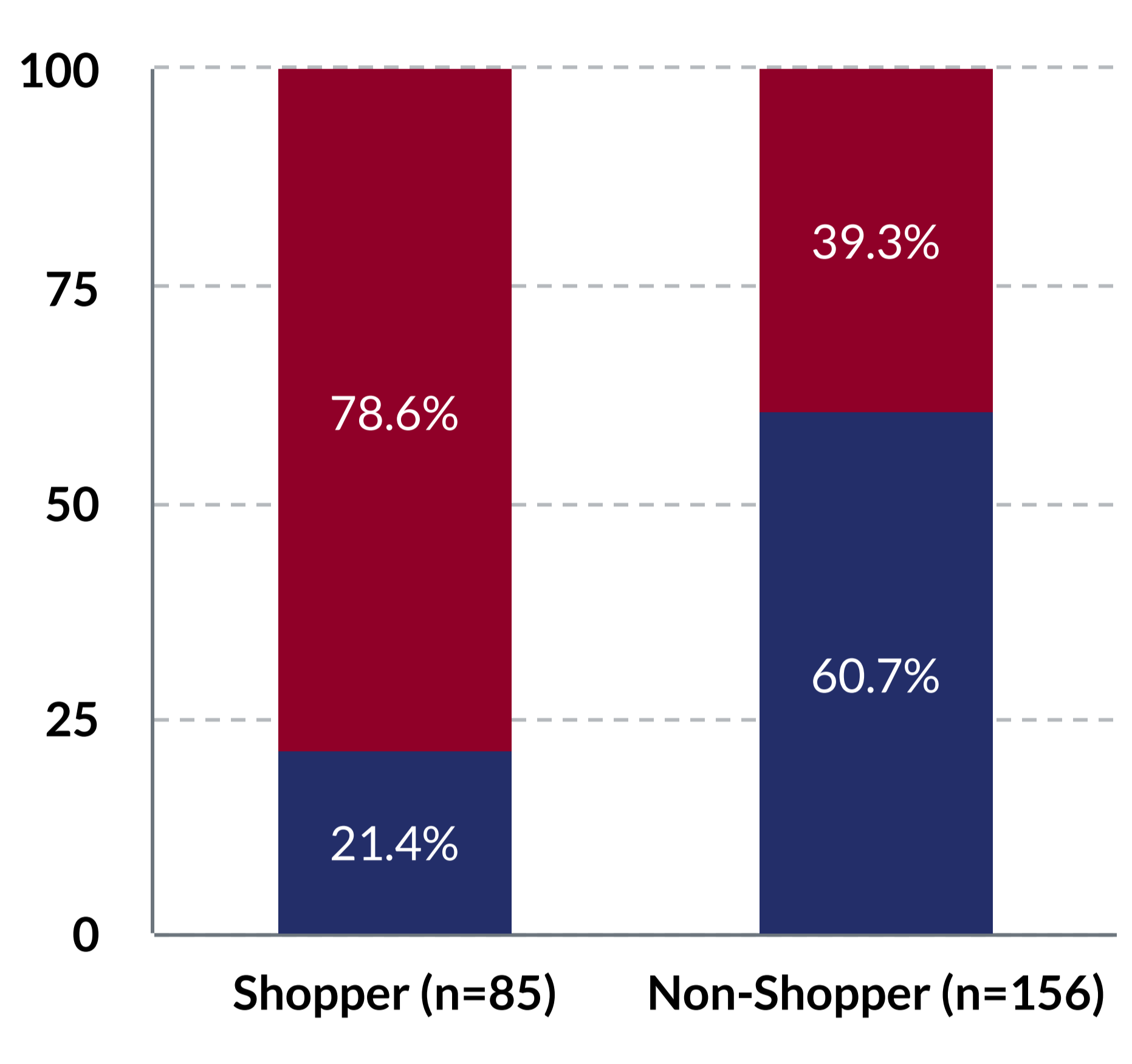
In an analysis of Spring to Fall retention,

78.6%*

of Grocery Vault shoppers returned the following term compared to only **39.3%** of non-shoppers*.

Further analysis revealed Grocery Vault shoppers were **3.5x more likely to persist** from Spring to Fall.

Spring to Fall Retention**



* Non-shoppers were students who indicated an interest in food assistance programs on a student intake survey but did not use the Grocery Vault.

**Source: TTC Institutional Research analysis of Spring 2023 students who enrolled in Fall 2023 for credit courses or graduated from a program of study.

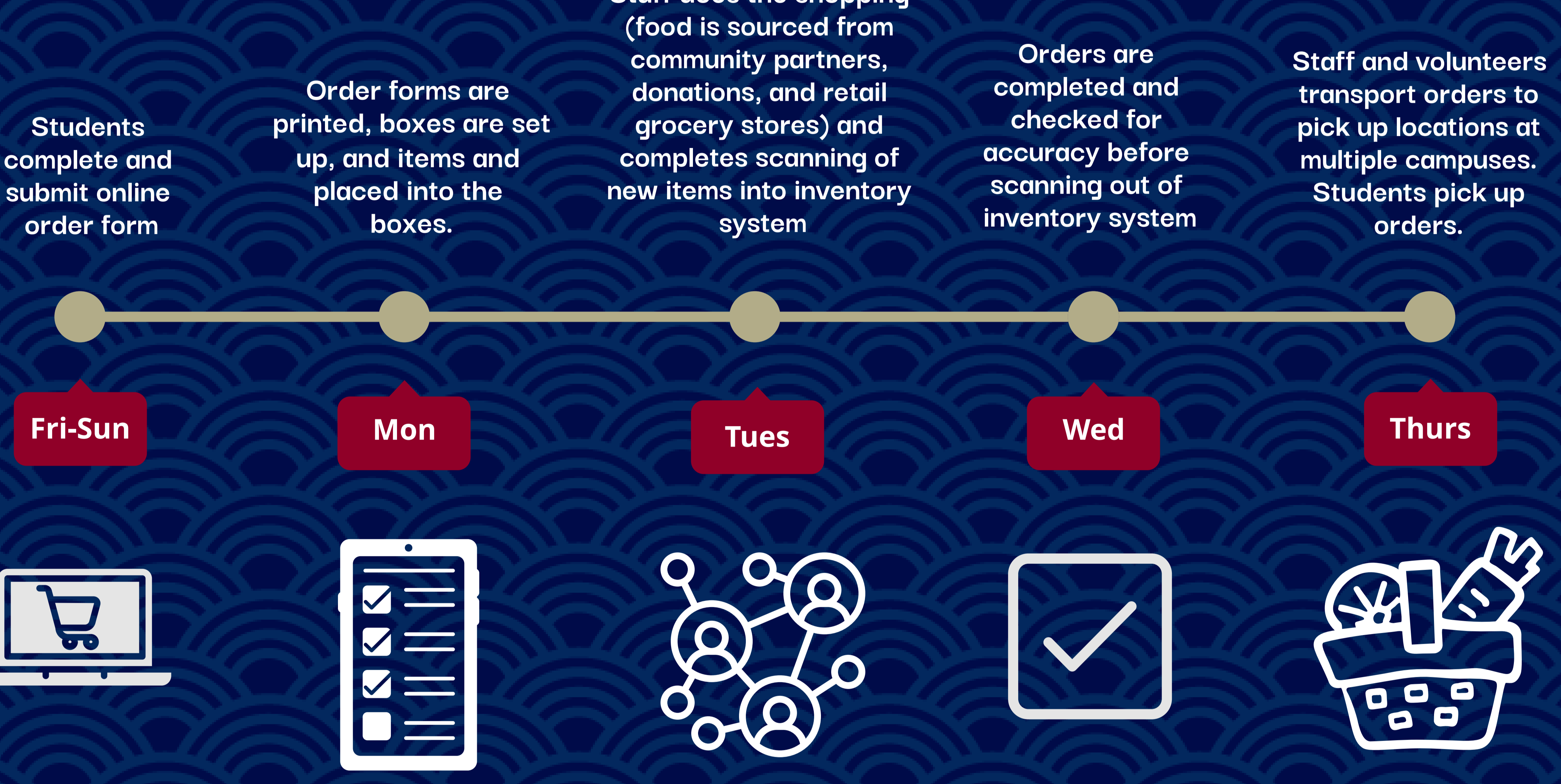
What do our students have to say?

The Grocery Vault is an amazing resource. I recently found myself in the grocery store trying to budget breakfast, lunch, and dinner with ten dollars, and never imagined myself in that situation prior. Regardless of everyone's individual reason for being able to benefit from this program, it helps.

The Grocery Vault definitely helps me stay in school. It lets me actually worry about one less thing and relieves me knowing I can have a vegan meal after class. I am very grateful for the vault being a resource at the school.

It makes it so I can spend money on school for more classes that will help me find a better job. It also relieves the stress so my family and I can spend time together and I'm less stressed so I do better in my classes.

How does the Grocery Vault operate?



GROCERY VAULT COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Trident Technical College Foundation

Provides funding secured through donor and grant support



Lowcountry Food Bank

Allows nonprofit food vaults to receive free or purchase discounted food products



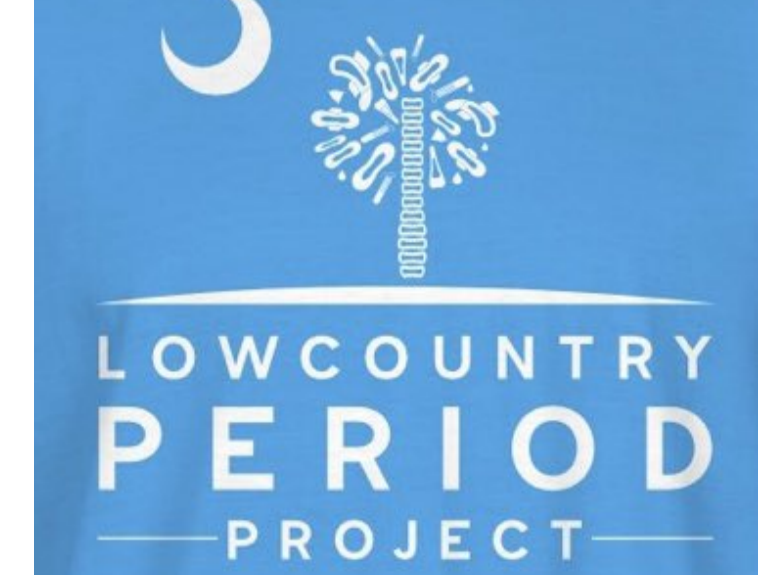
Unitarian Church in Charleston

Offers an annual grant program to local nonprofits for up to \$5000. We received grants in 2020-21 and 2022-23



Lowcountry Period Project

Provides free feminine hygiene products



St. John's Chapel

Offers food donations



Yaschik Foundation

Offers annual mini-grants. We have received a \$2500 grant for 2022-23.



The Joanna Foundation

Offers grants to non-profit organizations in Charleston, Dorchester, and Berkeley counties



For more info on the Grocery Vault at Trident Technical College and online order form scan the QR code or visit: https://www.tridenttech.edu/student/help/st_groceryvault.htm

For inquiries about the Grocery Vault, please contact James Lewis, Palmer Campus Generalist, james.lewis@tridenttech.edu

For inquiries about methodology or citations, please contact Liz A. Rennick, PhD, Director of Institutional Research & Data Analytics, elizabeth.rennick@tridenttech.edu