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John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies Food Pantry Service Project

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John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies Food Pantry Service Project

Summary

The faculty, staff, and students of the John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies are very pleased and excited to partner with UMass Boston's Office of Urban and Off-Campus Support Services U-ACCESS initiative to empower and support all UMass Boston students who are experiencing complex personal and social issues that might prevent their academic success.

Members of the McCormack Graduate School community are **"walking the talk"** to serve underserved populations and to help remedy economic and social inequities **"in our own backyard."** Through this service project, we hope to make a positive contribution to help alleviate food insecurity issues for our students in need.

We solicit donations at all McCormack-sponsored events and have three collection sites on campus:

- Dean's Office (M-3-625)
- Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (M-3-003)
- Center for Social Policy (H-10)

Please help us fill the collection boxes on a regular basis!



Approaches and Methods

- Volunteers to staff the pantry
- Donations of:
 - Non-perishable food items
 - Gift cards
 - T Passes ("Charlie Cards")
 - Canvas grocery bags
 - Cash

Why We Chose This Project

John W. McCormack, for whom our college was named, was a member of Congress for 42 years and Speaker of the House for nearly a decade. He also grew up in extreme poverty.

He was born in South Boston, where he and his mother and siblings lived in at least eight different apartments in the first dozen years of his life, staying just one step ahead of the eviction notices.

One biographer writes, "Because the family often lacked money for coal to heat their flat, John spent time after school with his brother scrounging for scrap wood in the dumps and for coal dropped from barges on the muddy flats of Boston harbor." Four of his siblings died of tuberculosis, a disease of urban poverty. He had to drop out of school in the 8th grade to support his mom and the surviving kids.

When he got to Congress, he was a legislative giant but never forgot where he came from. He was instrumental in the passage of Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid – some of the most prominent safety nets we have as a nation.

We have a sense that he would be so proud to see the school named in his honor preserving and refreshing his legacy with this thoughtful service project.