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## Falcons Provide

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Falcons Provide

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Honors Project

Submitted to the Honors College

At Bowling Green State University in partial fulfillment of the

Requirements for graduation with University Honors

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## **Explanation of the proposed program**

The idea for this project came about near the end of my first semester at BGSU when I realized that I still had many more swipes and Falcon Dollars than I needed. Even the smallest meal plan available had been too much for me, resulting in a loss of over 10 unused swipes and a fair amount of Falcon Dollars getting carried over to the next semester. By the end of my second semester, I still had swipes left over and about \$100 left that I ended up spending on food that I didn't really need because unused Falcon Dollars are returned to the university after each academic year. My second year I chose the smallest meal plan with Falcon Dollars only and again I was left with a surplus by the end of each semester. Had there been an option available to give my excess Falcon Dollars to charitable organizations, I would have given what I still had away rather than wasting it and I believe there are many other students who would do the same if given the opportunity, although research would be need to be conducted to confirm this point. This is why I would like to create a program called Falcons Provide.

The central idea of Falcons Provide is to set up a program through which students will be able to donate the Falcon Dollars left over in their meal plan to a local Bowling Green food charity. Setting up a program like this would allow students to use their money on something useful for the community, rather than just wasting the money they have at the end of the semester on food and drinks they don't need. This would reinforce some of the goals in BGSU's [mission statement](#): "Bowling Green State University provides *educational experiences inside and outside the classroom that enhance the lives of students, faculty and staff*. Students are prepared for lifelong

career growth, lives of engaged citizenship and leadership in a global society” (emphasis added, “Mission”). Falcons Provide would be a great out-of-classroom experience for students, allowing them to learn and actually make an impact in their community. It would also help inform students of the [food insecurity](#) that exists both in the [Bowling Green community](#) and with [other students attending BGSU](#). Awareness of food insecurity could also be raised by creating a student organization for the program. These students could work to inform other students of food insecurity, help run the Falcon Dollar collection process, organize food drives, and create other ways to raise money for local food charities. Alternatively, there could be a program set up where students are able to buy food from the Campus Outtakes and put their purchases in a donation box. The program could also develop into something similar to what some [Swipe Out Hunger](#) programs have done: having students pooling their swipes or Falcon Dollars together and buying a bunch of warm meals at one time to feed to the homeless. Such an event could be set up with a local food charity so people in need are able to come in one night to get a warm dinner served to them.

There is a program already running at BGSU with a similar goal of fighting food insecurity called [Falcon Care](#). Students are allowed to donate one swipe per week from their meal plan at either The Oaks or Carillon Place, with a maximum of 16 swipes able to be donated per student per semester. These swipes go into a separate account and are then transferred to cards which each hold 5 swipes. The cards then go to the Office of the Dean of Students to be distributed based on referrals from the Counseling Center, Residence Life, or the Falcon Health Center. A student may only be issued one

card per semester and the swipes may be redeemed at The Oaks or Carillon Place. All swipes are forfeited at the end of the semester and any unused cards must be returned by the end of the semester. Ideally, the Falcons Provide program would be set up in a similar manner, with students just needing to swipe their student ID and sending Falcon Dollars to one central account. This would be more convenient as the university would not need to apply many work hours into building the new program's platform.

### **Goals of the program**

- **Produce funding or provide additional food to a local food charity or charities**
- **Raise student awareness of the extent of food insecurity in the Bowling Green community**
- **Organize events to help reduce food insecurity in the Bowling Green community**
- **Vocalize BGSU's dedication to its community by supporting its citizens**
- **Involve more students in volunteer/work activities, particularly with local food charities**
- **Demonstrate to students facing food insecurity that they are not the only ones struggling**
- **Establish easier ways for students who are dealing with food insecurity to find support**

## Food Insecurity Statistics

The threat of food insecurity is prevalent throughout the United States and hits college students especially hard as they struggle to pay [for the rising cost of tuition](#). Students being food insecure leads to other issues such as a higher likelihood of being homeless or struggling in classes due to hunger. Multiple studies recently have been conducted in which people are surveyed using the USDA's model of food security. The results reveal whether participants have a high, marginal, low, or very low level of food security. Low food security describes households where quality, variety, and desirability are negatively impacted, but quantity is not. Very low food security indicates decreases in all areas as well as disrupted eating patterns due to inability to access adequate food. More information can be found [here](#).

Food insecurity is a problem faced by people across the United States as outlined by the charity [Feeding America](#). On Feeding America's "Hunger and Poverty Facts and Statistics" page, the number of people in the United States in poverty or facing food insecurity is outlined along with a breakdown of the states with the highest rates of food insecurity. According to Feeding America, in 2015, "43.1 million people (13.5 percent) were in poverty" and "42.2 million Americans lived in food insecure households" ("Hunger and Poverty Facts and Statistics"). This means that 13% of households in the United States were food insecure in 2015. The rate of household food insecurity varies between each state with the lowest being North Dakota at 8.5% and the highest being Mississippi with 20.8%. Ohio has the sixth highest rate of household

food insecurity in the country with 16.1%. This means nearly one in six households in Ohio are struggling with food insecurity.

One study exploring food insecurity among college students is “Hunger On Campus: The Challenge of Food Insecurity for College Students.” This study was conducted in 2016 and included 3,765 students attending 34 two- and four-year colleges and universities across 12 states. The results of the survey showed that 48% of respondents experienced food insecurity in the previous 30 days, including 22% with very low levels of food security. A majority of the students facing food insecurity were employed at the time of the survey, with 56% of food insecure students reporting having a paying job and 38% of those students working 20 hours or more per week. This survey also indicated that homelessness is fairly common among college students, with 13% of community college students and 7% of four-year college students reporting being homeless. Food insecurity or financial struggles can compromise students’ ability to perform well in their classes. Of the students facing hunger or housing insecurity, 32% found that these issues had an impact on their education. The problems due to hunger or housing issues included missing a class, missing a study session, missing a club meeting, opting not to join an extracurricular activity, opting not to buy a required textbook, dropping a class, and not performing as well in academics as they otherwise could have. More information found [here](#).

Another study was conducted by the Wisconsin Hope Lab in 2015, including 4,312 undergraduate students from 10 community colleges. The results showed 39% of participants experienced food insecurity, with 20% experiencing very low security. This



survey also found that 13% of participants experienced homelessness over the past year. Participants were also asked about mental health challenges faced, including feeling depressed, experiencing severe anxiety, engaging in disordered eating, and experiencing suicidal ideation. The results show a strong relationship between food insecurity and mental health problems. With each of the four mental health challenges, as the level of food insecurity rose, the percent of participants reporting signs of each challenge also rose. According to the researchers, “Food and housing insecurity can contribute significant stress and distress, which might in turn impair students’ abilities to access supportive resources and break out of this cycle” (Golrick-Rab). More information found [here](#).

Food insecurity is also affecting residents of Wood County and students at BGSU. As shown by Feeding America’s [Map The Meal Gap](#), food insecurity in Wood County is 13.7% with 17,610 food insecure people out of the reported 129,264 people in Wood County in 2013. Although this is a lower percentage than the rate in Ohio overall at 16.8%, 17,610 is still a large number of people who are facing food insecurity. According to a [study](#) conducted by Kathryn Koller in 2014, food insecurity is also affecting BGSU students. Using a sample of 53 students, Koller found that 19% of participants identified as having either low or very low food security. This study also found that 25% of participants skipped two or more meals over the previous month. However, the data from this survey may not be very accurate as the sample size was very small as compared to the total student population at the time of the survey at 15,709. To have more confidence in the extent of food insecurity at BGSU, a much

larger survey would need to be distributed to the students. [PUSH](#), a university initiative signed by President Mazey in 2015, has developed a needs assessment which will be administered soon to determine on a larger scale the amount of food insecurity on campus and who those people are.

With one in five college students across the nation reporting very low levels of food security, programs like Falcons Provide can be very beneficial to students. If students are too worried about getting their next meal or finding a place to sleep, then they will likely struggle focusing in school and will be much more likely to develop mental health challenges. A university supporting local food charities may see a return with higher student performance and retention as students are able to concentrate more in school and less on food.

### **Reasons for Food Insecurity**

Food insecurity is a problem among people across the United States and hits college students especially hard. But what are the factors that lead to someone becoming food insecure? According to a [study](#) conducted by Craig Gundersen, et al., “households headed by an African American, Hispanic, a never married person, a divorced or separated person, a renter, younger persons, and less educated persons are all more likely to be food insecure than their respective counterparts” (“The Economics of Food Insecurity in the United States”). Also, these factors leading to food insecurity suggest the person will earn a lower income than his/her counterparts. The study also found that, above all other factors, households earning a higher income and

with more liquid assets are substantially more likely to be food secure than their counterparts. The study revealed that households with an income near the poverty line were about 35% food insecure, while families earning nearly twice the poverty rate were 20% food insecure, and families earning triple the poverty rate were only 10% food insecure. Research conducted by the [National Coalition for the Homeless](#) pointed to unemployment, high housing costs, low wages/poverty, lack of access to [SNAP](#), and medical or health costs as the primary causes of food insecurity. The findings from these studies support the idea that college students would face a higher rate of food insecurity, as many college students meet the factors, which often contribute to being food insecure.

### **Why Falcon Care Is Not as Successful as it Could Be**

The Falcon Care program is a great concept. However, it has not yet been very successful in collecting and distributing swipes. The biggest strength of the program is the core concept of students helping students. It is because the swipes are transferred from one student to another that it was approved and put into place in just over one year. But the program has been implemented with many limiting factors which may have hampered the program's success. First of all, the swipes being collected are only good for the semester that they are donated, meaning that all the donations and any meals left on the cards are forfeited to Dining Services when the semester ends. Although having swipes expire makes sense with normal student accounts, for this program, that system does not work well. This is because donating near the end of a semester, when

most students would likely donate, is not very useful as it is much less likely that someone will pick up a card and use all five swipes before they expire, resulting in more wasted swipes. Many students are also not interested in donating swipes at the beginning of the semester because they are unsure of whether or not they will need them all, leaving very little space in the middle of the semester where donating swipes is actually practical for most students. Students are also limited to one donation per week, so once a student does figure out he/she won't need all of his/her swipes, he/she is limited to donating very little.

Finally, and most importantly, the program is not promoted by Dining Services whatsoever. Alyssa Davidson and Meredith Barger are two seniors who worked on promoting the Falcon Care program in the Fall 2016 semester for their Senior Capstone project. Davidson and Barger were not allowed to promote the program on Campus Updates and were not permitted to ask cashiers to talk to students about the program. They also were unable to get the program listed anywhere on the BGSU website, although they are working on getting the program on BGSU's [PUSH](#) Program website. So at this point very few students know about the program, Dining Services is not actively promoting the program, and any students interested in the program will have a very hard time locating any information about it online or anywhere else on campus. If BGSU worked on informing students that the program exists, then the Falcon Care program would likely be a lot more successful and could help a lot more students.

## Similar Programs

Falcons Provide would be the first program of its kind at BGSU, but there are dozens of other universities which have recently created similar programs designed to help fight food insecurity in each university's community. Many of these programs have teamed up with the organization [Swipe Out Hunger](#). Swipe Out Hunger began at UCLA in 2009 when students bought food with their excess meal swipes on their meal plans and gave the food out to homeless individuals, initially calling the program "Swipes for the Homeless." The program has grown exponentially since the first year, going from 300 meals in 2009, to over [1.2 million cumulative swipes](#) by 2015. There are now 23 chapters of Swipe Out Hunger at universities across the United States. It is important to analyze how these programs at other universities operate to better develop a plan for Falcons Provide.

One of the chapters of Swipe Out Hunger was founded in 2014 at the University of Pennsylvania. The University of Pennsylvania [Swipe Out Hunger club](#) now has 30 members and coordinates a variety of events including a volunteer week, profit sharing with local restaurants, and Swipe Out Hunger Donation Day. During the Donation Day each semester, Penn students can donate up to five swipes and Penn's dining service will donate the corresponding monetary value to food banks such as [Philabundance](#) and [SHARE](#). Penn Dining has set a maximum of 1,750 swipes that can be donated each semester. The first three semesters of the program, students have donated 4,500 swipes, the equivalent of \$16,000.

The success of this program shows me that a similar program could be just as successful at BGSU if it is implemented in a similar fashion. The Falcon Care program is not currently being promoted very well and I believe having an event similar to Penn's Swipe Out Hunger Donation Day may help its visibility and longevity. Although the initial idea of Falcons Provide was to allow students to donate unused Falcon Dollars, it may be simpler to build a program which takes donated meal swipes and donates the monetary value of the swipes to a local food charity. This may be simpler because there is already a system in place for students to donate swipes through the Falcon Care program. Building a program without this system would take more time and cost more to create, as a new system would need to be conceived and implemented by a BGSU staff member, leading to higher labor costs for the University. Or the Falcon Care program could be expanded by donating the monetary value of unused donated swipes. There would just have to be an additional process created which converts the swipes to their monetary value. The program at BGSU would also need to set a limit as to how many swipes could be donated per semester and the limit would likely need to be lower than Penn's limit of 1,750 since BGSU has a smaller student population. This is because Dining Services relies on the income from the meal plans purchased to subsist and having a significant amount of money taken away would negatively impact the program's bottom line. Falcon Care has a limit of one swipe donation per student per week and so Falcons Provide would likely have a similar limit set.

Another program called [Points for a Purpose](#) was created by two students at Northwestern University. Points for a Purpose allows students to donate unused credits

on their meal plans to food banks and food insecure classmates. The program allows students to donate the money on their meal plan by using their student ID at any C-store, the University's convenience stores, across campus throughout the semester. This money is then used to purchase food for distribution to people who would not be able to afford it otherwise. From the program's start in 2013 to December 2015, "Points for a Purpose has raised more than \$16,500 in food donations" (Gregory).

One of the major concerns Michael Paulus, the BGSU Dining Director, had with the initial Falcons Provide proposal was lost revenue leading to higher costs. Therefore, creating a program like Points for a Purpose may also be easier to establish than the original concept of Falcons Provide because it would allow Dining Services to retain the money being donated through sales of products at campus Outtakes locations. This would, however, mean a decrease in the number of items the program could purchase and a decrease in the variety of items that could be purchased in comparison to the program purchasing products from a grocery store off campus. A similar program to Points for a Purpose would also prevent any issues associated with the University just giving away funds to a charity, which may appear as an unnecessary use of federal funding, which was another concern expressed by Paulus. This type of program could operate very similarly to the Falcon Care program, in which donations are all sent to one account and the funds on that account could then be transferred to a card to purchase food to be donated at the end of each semester.

## Possible Partners

The central idea of the Falcons Provide program is that students will be able to donate their excess Falcon Dollars at the end of each semester to a local charity that helps fight food insecurity. Therefore, one important element of this project is finding which charities would be best to partner with. Three food service charities that may work for this program are the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry, the Wood County Humane Society Pet Food Assistance program, and the Brown Bag Project. Another program that could use the donations to help food insecurity in the community is Bowling Green's chapter of The Common Good. Each of these programs has benefits and drawbacks that affect whether it would be suitable for Falcons Provide. There are several other food service charities in Bowling Green, including the BG Christian Food Pantry, First United Methodist Church Food Pantry Bowling Green, and St. Aloysius Church Food Pantry. However, each one that I have found is based out of a church and each therefore has similar benefits and drawbacks to the St. Vincent De Paul Food Pantry.

The [St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry](#) is a food pantry based out of the St. Thomas More University Catholic parish. Founded in 1939, St. Thomas More is located on the west side of the BGSU campus, across the street from McDonald Hall and primarily serves the BGSU community. According to the organization's website, "The main purpose of St. Thomas More was and continues to be to serve the BGSU community" ("Our Mission and History"). Because their main purpose is serving the



community, they have several missions to help people in and around Bowling Green, including the St. Vincent De Paul Food Pantry.

Each year the St. Vincent De Paul Food Pantry (hereafter St. Vincent) “gives food to over 1,000 families, which includes nearly 4,000 individuals” (“St Vincent De Paul Food Pantry”). People in need are able to visit for assistance once per month on Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00 a.m to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. This service is open to all Wood County residents. The good part about partnering with this food pantry would be that it is well established in the community and with BGSU. The location of the food pantry allows easy access for students of BGSU, although it may be difficult to reach for people without a car who live outside the center of Bowling Green. With so many people already coming to this food pantry for help, additional funding could mean St. Vincent could allow people in need to receive assistance more often than once per month. Or St. Vincent could provide once-a-month assistance to more people than it currently can help. Also, since St. Vincent already has a relationship with BGSU, the food pantry may be able to help get the program started and the students already involved with St. Thomas More may be willing to volunteer with running the program. The downside of partnering with St. Vincent is the fact that it is a religious organization, which could be an issue due to BGSU being a public university. The transfer of public funds to a religious organization may be seen as a violation of separation of church and state. Another downside of the organization is that it is only open on Tuesdays and Thursdays, which may not be convenient for everyone who needs assistance.

Food insecurity can affect more than just people and the [Wood County Humane Society](#) is trying to fight this issue. The Wood County Humane Society was founded in 1904 to ensure the well-being of animals in need of help. The Wood County Humane Society is a private, non-profit organization which is run exclusively on contributions and donations from members and residents of Wood County. According to the Wood County Humane Society's website, "We do not receive any funding from the ASPCA or the Humane Society of the United States for our daily operations" ("Welcome!"). This organization's goal is to "provide the best possible care for the animals at the shelter. With this mission of care, we also strive to provide services to our community" ("Welcome!"). One of the services provided to the community through the humane society is the [Pet Food Assistance Program](#).

The Pet Food Assistance Program gives out pet food and cat litter to Wood County residents in need based on applications brought into the shelter. This program has very limited funding and is therefore only able to help a few families per week, which means the same homes are not able to receive aid on a regular basis. Receiving donations from the Falcons Provide program each semester could grow this program much larger to an extent that it would likely be able to help every pet owner who applied to the program. Another benefit of partnering with this program could be having the student organization, [Friends of the Wood County Humane Society](#), help start and run the program. The Friends group would likely be willing to run the program because, "along with volunteering, FWCHS holds multiple fundraisers a semester to raise as much money as possible to donate to the Wood County Humane Society" ("Friends of

the Wood County Humane Society”). However, the downside of using this program is that it would likely make getting approval for the Falcons Provide program more difficult as the funds would no longer be going towards feeding food insecure students at all.

The third possible charity is the [Brown Bag Project](#), which is a local non-profit organization that works to fight food insecurity by delivering food to people in Wood County who are in need of assistance. This organization began in 2013 with a small group of women helping 25-50 people per month and has since grown to serving 200 people per month. The program offers perishable and nonperishable food as well as limited household items and occasionally pet food upon request. It operates a little bit differently from a food pantry because anyone can ask for food and receive it immediately, while food pantries typically only operate during certain hours and have an approval process before providing assistance. The Brown Bag Food Project provides assistance to anyone once every six months. It also has volunteers who are willing to meet clients at any time and who can deliver the food to a client’s home if the client is homebound.

Some of the benefits of partnering with the Brown Bag Food Project is that it only requires Wood County citizenship to qualify for assistance, is not associated with any religious organization, is able to deliver food to anyone at any time, and is growing in the number of people helped each year. The downside to the Brown Bag Project is that it can only provide assistance once every six months. However, with assistance coming from the Falcons Provide program each semester, it is possible The Brown Bag Food

Project could lower that gap in frequency of food assistance or it could provide a larger amount of food to each person requesting assistance.

The final program is [The Common Good](#) of Bowling Green. This program is different from the other suggested possibilities as the goal of The Common Good is not directly to distribute food to those who need it. The Common Good states that they are, “on a mission to connect people to each other and the community” (“What We Do”). They accomplish their mission by running a community garden, weekly dinner dialogues, cultural immersion trips, opening a community space for good, and organizing community service. Most services provided are free, however The Common Good also offers memberships for discounted access to workshops, classes, and programs at the common space. Donating to The Common Good would allow them to expand their community garden, which is open to the public for anyone to pick produce for free.

The biggest benefit of partnering with The Common Good is that they are working to build the Bowling Green community in many ways other than just offering food to those in need. Working to strengthen the community is a good way to connect people who need help with those who can provide help and The Common Good does this in many different ways. The downside of partnering with The Common Good is that the the money donated would likely not all go directly to providing food to those who are in need of it. This could result in a weaker argument of how the money moving out of the University is being used to directly help citizens of the Bowling Green Community.

## Concerns of creating this program

The Falcons Provide program could do a lot of good in the Bowling Green community. But there are downsides to creating such a program as expressed by the BGSU Dining Director Paulus. His major concerns included that giving money away could mean an increase in tuition prices. Additionally, because the University is publically funded, it would look like the school does not need the funding if money from the state being given away to charity. Finally, the money collected from student meal plans is already budgeted to be used, not refunded.

Rising tuition costs are a big concern for most college students and adding the Falcons Provide program could contribute to the rising costs of attending BGSU. However, with a restriction on the maximum amount of donations allowed per semester, the amount of money drawn away from Dining Services will be minimal and the tuition increase will be minimal. For example, the [Points for a Purpose](#) program at Northwestern University has a limit of \$2,000 which can be donated per semester. According to Paulus, BGSU currently sells about 6,000 meal plans per semester. With the same limit as Northwestern of \$2,000, the total increase in cost per meal plan sold would be just \$0.33. According to the [BGSU FY 2017 Proposed Budgets](#), Dining Services expects to earn \$19,935,984 in revenue during the 2017 fiscal year from meal plans. Per semester that is approximately \$9,968,000 in revenue. With a \$2,000 donation cap, the Falcon Care program would use a maximum of approximately 0.02% of the revenue generated from meal plans each semester. So although this money would be taken away from the program and could raise the cost of tuition, the amount is

negligible compared to the cost of a meal plan and the income generated by student meal plans.

Being publically funded also creates an issue for the development of this program as it may appear that the tax money being given to BGSU is just being given away to charity. Because this is a concern, it is important to show the value of Falcons Provide as a marketing tool. Falcons Provide generates a positive impact for the Bowling Green community, thereby generating a more positive public image for the University as people who hear of the program think of the University as more caring. To determine if creating Falcons Provide would be a good marketing strategy, research would need to be completed either by surveying current BGSU students, donors, and alumni or by interviewing administrative staff at dining programs at other schools which have already implemented similar programs. The Falcons Provide program can be used as a way to show current and prospective students that the money they spend on meal plans would not be going to waste, which could result in more students purchasing a meal plan or purchasing a larger meal plan. It would take just one person purchasing a silver meal plan, who would otherwise not have purchased a meal plan, to recoup the income lost from the Falcons Provide program. Falcons Provide can also be used to demonstrate BGSU's commitment to the Bowling Green community, resulting in Bowling Green citizens being more supportive of BGSU and creating a more positive image of BGSU. Creating Falcons Provide is therefore not just giving away tax payers' money. It is a way to market BGSU as a more caring university that invests in its students' education, as well as general well-being.

Budgeting out a new program is also a big concern for the university and for Dining Services, but Falcons Provide should not cause a large strain in Dining Services' budget. The [BGSU FY 2017 Proposed Budgets](#) also states that Dining Services expects to have a total revenue of \$25,190,229 and spend \$24,230,906 in the fiscal year of 2017. If this projection holds true, then Dining Services will earn a profit of \$959,323. If the Falcons Provide program is capped at \$2,000 for the Fall and Spring semesters, the maximum amount of profitability taken away from Dining Services is approximately 0.42%. This isn't a huge piece of Dining Services' profitability, however, if this money is expected to go to another university department, then the deferral of funds to an outside organization may still be a tough sell to the university.

### **Monetary and Support Needs**

A big concern for creating any new program at a college or university is how much the program is going to cost and who is going to run the program. The main cost associated with Falcons Provide will likely be in labor costs associated with starting the program. This would likely be the time of Paulus as he was also the person who set up the Falcon Care program. After the program is created, the only other associated costs would be the money donated each semester and the time of the person taking the money out of the account and sending it to the selected charity. This amount could be speculated by figuring out how long it took to create the Falcon Care program.

For the best possible support of Falcons Provide, a student organization would need to be formed to run the program. All of the chapters of [Swipe Out Hunger](#) have a

student organization specifically for running the program at their individual institutions. So for the program to be successful at BGSU, an organization would also need to be created to run the events. The students from this group would likely be recruited from other service groups, such as: the Food Recovery Network, Aid for Change, Feed My Starving Children, and service-based sororities and fraternities. The organization would also work on promoting the Falcon Care program to help raise awareness that the program exists.

### **Steps for Implementation**

Creating Falcons Provide begins with gathering support for the program from other students, organizations outside of BGSU, and campus faculty and staff. First of all, for the university to agree to Falcons Provide, the cost of running the program needs to be kept to a minimum. Keeping the costs down can be accomplished by starting a student organization based around running Falcons Provide. From the [BGSU](#) website, this means that there will need to be 10 students and a faculty advisor involved in the organization. Next, getting support from the charity or charities the money would go to can help as they will be able to back up the claims of food insecurity in the community and the need for additional support to help more people in the community. It would also be helpful to reach out to [Swipe Out Hunger](#) for support and more advice on the steps to take to launch the program. Finally, it is necessary to have support from other faculty members who are able to help push the program proposal to BGSU's Board of Directors. There are a few people who can help with this process, including the BGSU



Dining Director Michael Paulus and the Dean of Students Jodi Webb. Having the support of Michael Paulus will also make it easier to develop the program upon the program's approval. With the support of all these people and organizations it will be easier to present the program to the Board of Directors.

The next step is having the program approved by the BGSU Board of Directors by having a faculty member submit the program's final proposal along with an organization constitution for the student organization. It will be important during this step to explain how Falcons Provide will be beneficial to the public appearance of BGSU and providing an accurate projection of how much the program will cost to start and continue operating.

Once the program is approved by the Board of Directors, Michael Paulus and other employees of Dining Services will work to develop the system of allowing students to donate Falcon Dollars and the system of sending the donations to a specified charity.

While the system is being set up, the student organization can also be founded so the students and faculty advisor are ready to go by the time the system is in place. Training for the organization's president and treasurer are offered throughout the year. Also, the [Student Leadership Assistants](#) are offer leadership and training opportunities for student organizations. A [website](#) will need to be created on [Orgsync](#) for the organization along with the organization's constitution. The organization will also need to find a location to meet regularly and will need to create a Falcons Provide logo.

Once the student organization is able to start meeting, they can begin developing methods to spread awareness of the new program. This can include: getting the

program somewhere on the BGSU website, getting articles in news publications, placing information about the program on campus updates, creating flyers or posters to place around campus, or sending members to on campus dining locations to talk with other students. The student organization should also work towards spreading awareness of food insecurity among BGSU students and citizens of the Bowling Green community. The student organization can also be meeting with local food charities to help spread awareness to students in need of assistance and to students who want to help by donating food or volunteer their time.

With the system in place and the student organization formed, the next step will be encouraging students to donate if they can by creating a [Donation Day](#) similar to that of The University of Pennsylvania. Holding this event over the course of several days will help promote the program and remind students not to let the money on their meal plan go to waste.

With the money collected, someone from Dining Services will then send the money to the selected organization(s). The student organization should ask for updates from the organization(s) to understand what the money went to and what impact the money had on the organization(s) and the people they serve.

## **Conclusion**

I believe that this project really only pushes forward the possibility of a Swipe Out Hunger style program at BGSU a little bit. The real work of creating the program will be placed on anyone who attempts to begin the program. As stated in the “Steps for

Implementation” section, this proposal only covers one of the many steps that it would take to create such a program. The results of the needs based assessment completed by PUSH to show the levels of food insecurity among BGSU students could become a big selling point for Falcons Provide or to further promote Falcon Care. But until there are more precise details on the extent of food insecurity, I don’t believe the University has a good enough reason to implement this type of program. Even if there are distinct statistics showing high levels of food insecurity among BGSU students, starting Falcons Provide will be an uphill battle and will require the support of many students and faculty members to be founded. I do, however, believe it is possible for Falcons Provide to be created because of all the organizations like it working with Swipe Out Hunger. I also believe it would be successful with proper leadership from the student organization and sufficient support from BGSU.

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