Hungry students do not always look hungry. On Auburn’s campus, hunger does not look any particular way.

Auburn’s chapter of The Campus Kitchen holds Auburn Family Meals each Friday, where students who are food insecure can come and take up to four free meals. The group’s goal is to destigmatize hunger and what hunger looks like, as well as provide nutritious, balanced meals for Auburn students in need.

The Auburn Family Meals take place in the basement of Toomer Hall in the Hill at 11:30 a.m., every Friday and last until 1 p.m. Students walk in and are greeted by the President of the group, Hailey Tuckerwilliams, and Vice President Kenzly Defler.

Once they give their email to Nelson for data purposes, the students are free to walk in the kitchen and, with the help of a volunteer, select up to four meals that are prepackaged and labeled. From there, they are free to continue on their way.

The Campus Kitchen strives to give students meals that meet nutritious standards, including dietary restrictions. Students can choose between veggie and meat meals, and each meat meal is labeled for consideration of students from different backgrounds.

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The Campus Kitchen at Auburn University

AU Outreach works toward ending food insecurity

Ellary Tuckerwilliams made her way into The Campus Kitchen like most Fridays with her fellow graduate students, donning a horror crocheted hair net and rocking roller blades. As a graduate student, she only gets paid once a month and she has been looking for a way to make ends meet.

After the meals, Tuckerwilliams and fellow graduate students, Alex Lewis, said they are relatively good and filling, but sometimes they are worried about the fridge life of the food. They said most meals they receive are good and last them a few days.

Defler and Nelson said they always welcome feedback from the students who attend Auburn Family Meals, so they can make the meals even more enjoyable.

“I would personally really like it if the community sees how they can really help and see that we do need more of them to become more sustainable,” Tuckerwilliams said.

Because of this, food donated to The Campus Kitchen relies on dining halls and restaurants at Auburn to provide enough food for the students that come in on Fridays and help with food insecurity around the city.

Picking up to forty to sixty students a week, hundreds of others with their community outreach.

To provide enough food for the students who come in on Fridays and help with food insecurity around the city.

For the students, it’s really important with food insecurity, to destigmatize it and the stereotypes that go along with it,” Defler said. “We are trying to open the Auburn Family Meals to be more like a community. We just bought a microwave and reusable deli containers. We are encouraging people to sit down with us and come together as a group when they get their meals.”

Defler and Nelson said they want to "break the barriers" and "see that we all need a more community feel.

CATHY WOOLFORD / PHOTOGRAPHER

AU Outreach works toward ending food insecurity