Black Bear Exchange Food Pantry & Clothing Swap

Bodwell Center for Service and Volunteerism

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Black Bear Exchange

VISION

The Black Bear Exchange envisions a community where all those who work at and attend the University of Maine have equitable access to resources; and where creative, situation-specific collaborations are actively nurtured to meet needs. This community will also value the reuse of goods and seek to eliminate the waste of resources. These actions will minimize dependence on supra-local, socially unaccountable systems and better provide for the well-being of all community members.

Effective September 1, 2020 until further notice.

All BBE service is via pre-orders and scheduled pickup. Pickups scheduled during the following hours:

Use Black Bears to Go to order your items and schedule a pick up time!

Summer Schedule begins during finals week. Download a printable SUMMER 2021 SCHEDULE.

Open every other week, Wednesday 11:00 to 5:30 and Saturday 9:00 to noon.

*If these times are completely impossible due to your class and work schedule, contact Lisa Morin.

Please check our Facebook page and this page for any updated information.

FOOD PANTRY

The food pantry is open to students and their immediate families as well as staff and faculty. There is no income requirement and no application process. Just present a valid MaineCard. Our focus is supporting those who are not able to obtain assistance from other community sources. For information about other community sources, please visit 211maine.org.
CLOTHING SWAP – 9/1/20 Clothing is closed at this time.

The Clothing Swap is open to anyone and everyone!!! People are encouraged to bring gently worn items to exchange/swap or small donations can be made instead (but are not required). Any money received goes to buy food for the food pantry. Our goal with this sustainable project is to reduce stigma surrounding food pantries and thrift stores while providing support to the community.

Want to run a food drive or a clothing drive? Contact us! Remember to join us on Facebook; search for Black Bear Exchange at UMaine!

How you can help the BBE

**Hold a food drive**
Basic food drives are always a good choice! We can supply you with a list of our most needed items.

**Hold a fundraiser**
Pick a fundraiser that fits your group, and its' talents, and then choose to donate the money or buy food to donate. If you are a musical group hold a small show, if you are an athletic group hold a workout class, just be creative and use what you know!

**Help host an educational event**
Part of the BBE is that we want to help people learn how to be healthy no matter what their situation is. If you or your group have an idea for an educational event let us know! This includes events such as a film screenings, health or nutrition classes, or other ideas you may have.

**Help with advertising**
Are you good at advertising? Do you write for a newspaper or other publication? We are always looking for help to get our name out there and find new volunteers. Let us know how you can help.

**Something else that fits your group**
Do you have an idea for how to help that is not listed here? Let us know! Everyone has something different to offer and we are willing to work with you so it can benefit both parties. Volunteering can be a great way team builder for a group!

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**DONATE NOW**
You can donate two ways. Both will put food on our shelves!

1. Donate directly to the Black Bear Exchange via the UMaine Foundation. Select the Bodwell Center for Service and Volunteerism and note Black Bear Exchange.
2. Donate to the Good Shepherd Food Bank and designate the funds for the UMaine Black Bear Exchange.

Where are we?

55 York Village (see map below)
University of Maine
Orono, ME
(207) 581-4567
e-mail: um.blackbearexchange@maine.edu
Signs are out along Grove Street Extension and in the Village. Black parking is available in the Global Sciences Lot. Red and Blue parking is available in the Aroostook Lot. Look for our sign on the side of our building, and we will have a sign in front of our door when we are open to help you find us.

Bodwell Center for Service and Volunteerism
Memorial Union, Room 311
Orono, Maine 04469

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