

Introduced By: Chair Vasquez
Sponsored By: SBA Committee
SBA Chair Hameed
Chair Al-Qudah
Contact: Sgsci16@ucf.edu
First Reading: November 12th, 2024;
Committee Action: Passed 7-0-2
Second Reading: November 14th, 2024;
Final Vote: Passed 33-0-0



**University of Central Florida
Fifty-Sixth Student Body Senate
Proclamation 56-23**

[Proclamation Recognizing November 17th, 2024, until November 23rd, 2024 as National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week]

WHEREAS, Senate Rule 2.04(G)(1) states that the Student Body Advocacy (SBA) Committee shall pass measures advocating on behalf of the student body regarding student and university affairs at the University of Central Florida (UCF);
WHEREAS, Senate Rule 5.01(D)(1) states that Proclamations are defined as measures recognizing, celebrating, or condemning extraordinary events, organizations, or individuals on behalf of all Student Government Agents;
WHEREAS, In the United States, 37.2 million Americans live below the poverty level;
WHEREAS, About 44 million Americans are at risk of suffering from hunger;
WHEREAS, 1 in 6 children live in poverty nationwide;
WHEREAS, The U.S Department of Education found that at least 8% of college students experience homelessness at one point or another;
WHEREAS, The National Center for Homeless Education states that Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native, Black, Hispanic and multiracial students are overrepresented in homelessness;
WHEREAS, Additionally, LGBTQ+ youth and those who experience housing instability, severe family conflict or abuse, have a higher risk of homelessness;
WHEREAS, Homelessness contributes to poor health, including prevalence of chronic illnesses, high rates of sexual and emotional abuse (STIs and unwanted pregnancies), high rates of mental health problems and substance abuse, and increased risk of poor nutrition and diabetes;
WHEREAS, In 2024, in Orange County alone, almost 8,000 people are currently experiencing homelessness, over half are them, living completely unsheltered, this is a 37% increase from 2022;
WHEREAS, UCF offers resources to homeless students;
WHEREAS, Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) offers beneficial counseling services to unhoused students, providing appropriate resources and aid;
WHEREAS, Student Cares Services provides homelessness waivers, of which 59 students were approved for in 2019, marking a 103% increase from 2015;
WHEREAS, Knights Helping Knights Pantry offers UCF students with up to 5 food, toiletries, and clothing items per day;
WHEREAS, Multiple Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) on campus, provide consistent services to homeless communities in the Greater Orlando area, by conducting donation drives, fundraising, and providing free preventative healthcare services, through volunteerism;
WHEREAS, RSOs including, but not limited to: Hearts for the Homeless UCF, Mother and Children's Health Organization, Partners in Health ENGAGE @ UCF, MedLife, SALT Outreach @ UCF, Volunteer UCF, International Medical Outreach, and Global Medical Brigades;
WHEREAS, In the Spring 2024, a donation drive was hosted by SG, over \$500 in monetary donations were collected, over 10 30-gallon bags of clothing and non-perishable food items were collected, in the span of 4 hours;
WHEREAS, Having worked in collaboration with UCF Dining Services, UCF Bookstore, Publix, and Team Knightro;
WHEREAS, To bring awareness to UCF students, a Donation Drive will be hosted the week of November 12th-15th, collecting clothing, non-perishable food items, and monetary donations, week-long;
WHEREAS, Donations will be collected in Housing Communities, Knight Stop Locations, Student Government Office, Downtown UCF, and at the main Donation Drive Event, November 15th in the Student Union Patio; and
WHEREAS, Donations are given directly to local homeless communities in the Greater Orlando Area.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Fifty-Sixth Student Senate of the University of Central Florida Recognizes November 17th-23rd as National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, by hosting events, supporting RSOs, and the Greater Orlando Area; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Proclamation be sent to Vice President of Student Success and Well-Being Adrienne Frame, Vice President for Access and Community Engagement Andrea Guzmán, Student Director of the Multicultural Student Center Xander Loliyong, Ginsburg Center for Inclusion and Community Engagement, Hearts for the Homeless Orlando, Knights Helping Knights Pantry, Christina Loughren District Manager of Dining Services, Wellness and Health Promotion

Services (WHPS), Student Care Services, MEDLIFE, Mothers and Children Health Association, SALT Outreach at UCF, Partners in Health ENGAGE, Volunteer UCF, It Takes a Village, and Multicultural Student Center.

AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES



Allison Pohlmann
Senate President

12/3/2024

Date



Bryce Lister
Student Body President

12/6/2024

Date