



how to start a  
campus chapter

Food for the Hungry/U.S.  
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## introduction -- two days wages the cost of caring for a campus

*A certain man...fell among robbers, and they stripped him and beat him, and went off leaving him half dead. But a certain Samaritan...came upon him and when he saw him, felt compassion, and came to him, and bandaged up his wounds...brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the next day he took out two denarii (two days wages) and gave them to the innkeeper and said, 'Take care of him ' --Lk 10:30, 33-35 (NASB).*

**What will this cost you?** This is a question that the Samaritan didn't think about very long, but the answers become quite obvious in simply looking at the passage recounted up above from Luke 10. If we're honest with ourselves, this won't take us long to think through either. Loving people shouldn't take us long to mull over.

### time

The Samaritan stopped. Perhaps, this is the most obvious, but often glossed over fact of the passage. Other people walked by, but the Samaritan stopped. On a college campus, you pass by literally hundreds of people in a given week, how many times do you stop simply to serve? When is the last time you stopped simply to be a healing force in someone else's life? A Campus Chapter that is devoted to meeting physical and spiritual needs will be a group of people who begin to stop more often and notice people who are hurting. There are men and women who are internally and externally suffering, but so many are walking by them on the other side. Yes, we even have good excuses as did the two men in Luke 10, but Jesus doesn't commend them. Jesus commends the one who stopped.

### money

The Samaritan parted with two days wages or two denarii. In other words, the Samaritan gave up some money so that a hurting person could rest or find healing. A Campus Chapter devoted to meeting needs will also have to raise money or pool resources to help those who have been left on the side of the road. At times this will be a great challenge, at other times the money will be readily available. At all times, the money is given away for the benefit of others.

### convenience

Stopping in the midst of a busy day will cause you a certain amount of inconvenience. You may be late for a class or you may be forced to rethink your schedule and both of these are incredibly inconvenient. Yet, the Samaritan stopped and was willing to be motivated by compassion rather than convenience.

### reputation

The Samaritan was a person who was not liked by the religious establishment. In fact, the religious leaders viewed Samaritans as 'unclean'. Yet, Jesus makes the Samaritan the one who was neighborly or who demonstrated compassion and love. Jesus, in teaching this story,

shatters our notion of protecting our reputation and forces us to think more about love and grace. Helping the neglected or marginalized on the campus may challenge the status quo and force others to rethink public image. But, isn't compassion, love, and grace worth far more than image? Some people may gossip or talk about the motives of a chapter that is seeking to help everyone and not just the in crowd. Yet, Jesus himself challenged the status quo, not through political means, but because he chose to love the prostitutes, the tax collectors, and the sinners. Authentic grace and real love challenges everything.

## part one -- essential information

### how to start a campus chapter

#### what is a campus chapter?

A Campus Chapter is a student-led group of Christians who seek to collectively meet the physical and spiritual needs of their respective campuses.

Campus Chapters are solely student/volunteer driven and do not have an Food for the Hungry (FH) staff member on campus. These chapters may have access to FH staff and materials, though, and will be people committed to the FH vision and mission.

Campus Chapters will often be found in places where there is a strong volunteer board or council of FH advocates. While having a group of advocates in place is helpful, Campus Chapters may also be launched on the sole initiative of a group of students committed to eradicating physical and spiritual hungers worldwide.

Student led chapters will elect a director if the group is less than 15 students. If more than fifteen students, the chapter will designate a board with one person elected as the chair. The student board will be no more than six people until the group exceeds one hundred students. After one hundred students, the board will increase its membership by one per twelve students (or a total ratio of 12:1; students: board member).

Once the chapter is organized, FH staff and advocates will serve in both an advisory and resource capacity. The chapter will have the freedom to be student led and student driven, but with the resources of the entire Food for the Hungry community at their disposal.

#### what do campus chapters do?

Campus Chapters seek to serve the student body and faculty/administration through service and acts of mercy as well as awareness of global issues, integration of the community/city, and facilitation of short-term trips, child sponsorship, etc.

Campus Chapters meet biweekly or monthly and may even facilitate retreats or special events as deemed beneficial by Regional FH staff. Campus Chapters may also integrate with other groups at a National Campus Conference hosted annually by FH or those groups that may geographically be located nearby. The presence and effectiveness of the Campus Chapter is directly related to its ability to meet the physical and spiritual hungers present on the college or University.

#### a Vision of Community

What is Vision of a Community? Vision of a Community is the answer to this fundamental question: "If we are successful in God's eyes in the work we do within a community, what does that community look like when we leave?"

Our Corporate Identity Statement answers the question in this way: The community and its people are advancing towards their God-given potential by:

- Being equipped to progress beyond meeting their basic needs
- Having a growing group of Christians
- Loving God and one another
- Manifesting the fruit of the Spirit
- Reaching out to serve others

#### Applying the Vision of Community to College Life

The Campus Chapter has applied the Vision of Community when students are being equipped to progress beyond simply going to class and getting a degree. Instead, the college community is being challenged in their thinking and in their life by a growing group of Christians who love God and one another in spiritual and physical ways.

Only when a community of people is seeking to tangibly and physically express their love for one another is there ample evidence that the fruit of the Spirit is being manifested. At the bare minimum, professing Christians ought to seek to reach out and serve other people. The teachings of Jesus only underline the need for Christian people to be those who love to serve others and seek to express deep compassion for all.

*He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness; and to walk humbly with your God? --Mic 6:8, ESV.*

#### [a vision for the college or university](#)

Campus Chapters must recognize that the college or university is a unique cultural entity and holds a prominent place within a city or community. Therefore, a Campus Chapter must seek to reach the entire campus community and not simply parcel students out. Students must see themselves as a part of the whole and not an island unto themselves.

The Campus Chapter, then, seeks to build solid relationships with the local churches, faculty, administration, staff, and students in order to build a community who will meet the physical and spiritual needs of every one involved with the college or university.

This is an ambitious vision, but this is attempting to do something on the scale of Biblical proportions and not, as so often happens, the measure of humanity's limited sight. If God does not move, if the Holy Spirit does not motivate, then this will fail. But, if God brings like-minded people together and mobilizes them from the posture of faith expressed in love, then nothing is impossible.

*For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself"*  
--Gal 5:14 ESV.

*Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor*  
--Ro 12:10 ESV.

*Greater love has no one than this; that someone lays down his life for his friends*  
--John 15:13 ESV.

## meeting physical and spiritual needs

Practically, a Campus Chapter will need to identify both the physical and spiritual needs present in order to launch a plan to meet them. Each Campus Chapter should answer the following questions in getting started:

1. What spheres of influence are present on this campus? How are these spheres of influence shaping the spiritual climate of the campus?
2. Who are the hurting groups of people on this campus?
3. What groups of people are being ignored, marginalized, or neglected?
4. What students, faculty, or administration are struggling to get through the day?
5. How can this Campus Chapter best serve existing campus ministries, promoting love, peace, and unity in the Gospel?
6. Are there hungry people, homeless people, or neglected people living in areas near the campus that could benefit from a holistic, gospel driven ministry?
7. What churches in the area can help meet the physical and spiritual needs of the campus community?

As the Campus Chapter meets together, the seven questions above should serve as a guide to spark discussion. The answers to the questions listed will also guide the chapter in what to do next.

What this means is that the Chapter should take the time to answer the questions as honestly and thoroughly as possible so that physical and spiritual needs are met. Without going through this rather basic identification process, the Chapter may simply lack the information necessary to pursue transformation.

## part two- the goal: transformation

### personal transformation

Before tackling the daunting task of changing a campus, every individual Chapter member must be committed to praying for change in their own hearts and lives. Only changed people will change campuses.

What does this mean practically?

#### 1. Live a life of repentance

*Who is a God like you pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities under foot --Mic 7:18-19 ESV.*

*The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins nor repay us according to our iniquities --Ps 103:8-10 ESV.*

Individuals must turn to this amazing grace and this turning characterizes life. We don't have it together, we are works in progress. We have neglected to help those in need and at times we have made other people's lives worse or at least painful. But, that's not the end of our story....

*Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus --Php 3:12-14 ESV.*

#### 2. Live a life of faith in the work of Christ

Jesus paid the penalty for our sin and now, we must believe that there's nothing more to do to draw us near to God except believe that such grace is true. We must live by faith and not sight. We must believe that the Bible is true and that Jesus is who he claims to be. Such faith will lead us to understand that in Christ, things are different.

*The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing --Zep 3:17 ESV.*

*I will not leave you as orphans, I will come to you --Jn 14:18 ESV.*

*There is therefore, now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus --Ro 8:1 ESV.*

## cultural transformation

Individuals who are committed to growing in repentance and faith will get noticed. The vast majority of the world isn't living by faith in Christ and the vast majority of the world doesn't seek to repent of wrongdoing.

A culture that is influenced by a group of people who are marked by repentance and faith will be impacted greatly. People committed to growing spiritually will also be committed to growth physically. And such a group will have far reaching impact.

What this means in daily life is that repentant people will seek to show mercy and grace to others through tangible means. Any person who has truly experienced grace will want to share that with other people in ways that are felt and in ways that matter deeply.

The Bible gives us several glaring, practical passages that impact culture, but serve as responses to the grace of God.

*The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God to comfort all who mourn --Isa 61:1-2 ESV.*

*He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God --Mic 6:8 ESV.*

*If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit the orphans and widows in their affliction...if you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself,' you are doing well --Jas 1:26-27a, 2:8 ESV.*

A Campus Chapter committed to individual change will move toward cultural change. A Chapter that changes a culture will impact an entire world.

## global transformation

Many campus ministries introduce global issues through mission trips or service projects. This is not only good, but this has changed countless lives over the years. Yet, this is often a case of individual transformation not necessarily global transformation. By and large, the participants of a brief mission trip benefit as much or more than the host country.

Global transformation, then, isn't just scheduling a trip here and there, but truly seeking to impact cultures and countries through churches, leaders, and families. And to truly effect long-lasting change, groups of people must commit to a certain work for extended periods of time. In other words, sustainable transformation is over the long haul.

A Campus Chapter can be an integral part of sustainable global change in three primary ways. First, when sacrificial service is modeled and there is word and deed ministry expanding in to all spheres of life, people change and people also are fueled to initiate

change. When this ministry happens over an extended period of time, then people will no longer settle for less than what is desirable.

Secondly, a Campus Chapter can challenge the minds and mores of the students, faculty, and administration through hosting events that bring global issues to light. Issues such as HIV/AIDS, poverty, war, epidemics, government, natural disasters, environmental issues, and racism should not be relegated to editorial sections of the newspaper or to the background of an affluent society. And these issues should not be left untouched by the Church and by people who follow after Jesus Christ. Campus Chapters have the ability to place these global issues in to a redemptive context. Campus Chapters can bring Biblical truth to bear on issues that so often garner international attention.

Thirdly, Campus Chapters can adopt a community or be an integral part of the entire college adopting a community. The latter is preferable as the entire college comes to see its place as a change agent and not just a degree provider or information tank. If a Campus Chapter desires to adopt a community abroad, Food for the Hungry staff will be closely involved in communications and in setting up the actual relationship.

So often, people may attend college to receive information and so often faculty and administration work diligently to impart information. Our desire is that a group of people will rise up and desire transformation. First, Campus Chapters do this as individuals who have been wrecked by sin and put back together by grace. Secondly, these redeemed people effect cultural change through word and deed ministry in all spheres of life. And thirdly, the Campus Chapter seeks global transformation through sustained service and by bringing Biblical truth to bear on international issues.

God called and we responded until physical and spiritual hungers are ended worldwide. --FH  
Vision Statement

## part three: practical tips for chapter formation

### a CORE team

Campus Chapter leaders and organizers are already committed people, but they may be asking, 'Who should join this group?' We propose looking for the following four qualities in people, thus organizing a CORE team.

**Commitment**—In order for a group to meet physical and spiritual needs, the individuals must be committed to being there and being involved. Remember Jesus changed the course of history using a few committed people, not crowds of thousands.

**Observation**—In order to meet needs, one must see them or observe them. The Campus Chapter will need people who look outside themselves and notice those who are hurting.

**Reflection**—In addition to seeing the need, thought must be given to meeting the need. People who are willing to think through issues should be part of the group as well. Activist, energetic people are usually drawn to groups who are involved in community service, but thoughtful, reflective people should balance out such enthusiasm. We need both energy and thoughtfulness working together.

**Expectation**—People should expect to see change and should expect positive things to happen. A Campus Chapter is about possibilities and is about more than simply showing up. Campus Chapters need people who expect great things to happen. William Carey's most famous quote, 'Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God,' is a good summary.

### Formation Questions:

1. Who is committed to this chapter meeting and succeeding?
2. As you walk across your campus, what do you observe are the pressing needs of the:
  - a. student body
  - b. faculty
  - c. administration
3. As you reflect upon these needs, what comes to mind?
4. Do you expect things to change on their own or are you willing to take the initiative and move forward, expecting God to meet you along the way?

## identify the spiritual needs

### A Checklist

1. List all campus ministries and their impact on the campus community.
2. List all area churches that intersect with the campus community.
3. What special events are hosted by your campus that specifically target spiritual needs?
4. How would you characterize the spiritual climate of your campus? Check which ones apply:
  - Enthusiastic
  - Energetic
  - Apathetic
  - Lethargic
  - Lazy
  - Local
  - Global
  - Teaching oriented, high on information
  - Service oriented, high on mobilization
  - Student led
  - Faculty led
  - Legalistic (too many rules)
  - Lawless (not enough rules)
  - Holistic
  - Compartmentalized
  - Boring
  - Irrelevant
  - Meeting needs
5. What classes contribute to a growing spiritual climate?
6. Who are the spiritual role models within the campus community?

## identify the physical needs

### A checklist

1. Who is struggling to put food on the table due to school expenses?
2. Are there faculty, administration, or staff that are suffering in any obvious physical way?  
How can we help them?
3. What areas surrounding the campus community are struggling for food or shelter?
4. How are the Christian ministries meeting the physical needs? In other words, what is the climate of service like? Circle or check those that apply.
  - People are obviously serving one another
  - People are obviously walking by without noticing each other
  - Christians are designated drivers and escorts and people know this
  - Christians are avoiding the Greek system
  - The campus community knows that it can call on certain ministries to meet needs
  - The campus community has no idea that campus ministries have any lasting impact
  - Women with eating disorders are being supported
  - Women with unwanted pregnancies know that there are multiple options
  - Christian ministries are working together to serve a greater cause
  - Christian ministries are competing with each other all the time
  - There are spring break and summer missions both domestic and international that are well advertised
  - The surrounding community speaks highly of the impact that the campus has had on its quality of life
5. Do international students get invited in to homes?
6. Do other campus ministries feel that we are there to serve them?
7. Are there students graduating in to service vocations?

## campus chapter checklist

### Getting Started

- \_\_\_\_\_ Gather 6-10 like-minded students together for prayer about this group. This group will become the backbone of the Campus Chapter.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Communicate with Food for the Hungry about the Campus Chapter. We would like to resource the chapter, but we can't do that well unless we know what's going on.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Register the chapter with student life or student services. Most campus groups find this a necessary step in order to use on-campus facilities.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Try to find a faculty advisor. This faculty member will provide wisdom when it comes to certain activities and events and may even prove to be an advocate with the administration.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Identify a leadership team or board. Let us suggest the following set-up.
  - a. Chapter President or Chair (elected by other members of the group)—takes the lead in organizing meetings, communicating with Food for the Hungry, and following up with advisors and chapter members and other leadership team members.
  - b. Communications Director (Secretary)—takes notes at meetings and is in charge of chapter website.
  - c. Stewardship Coordinator (Treasurer)—takes on the responsibility of caring for the chapter's resources.
  - d. Event Coordinator—takes on the responsibility of planning special events that are either fundraisers, awareness events, bringing in a speaker, or organizing concerts/service projects.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Plan and pray for growth. A Campus Chapter should not be an exclusive club. Select a meeting place that can accommodate growth and pray continuously for a group of supportive members. Sustainable change is difficult without unity.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Consider getting your leadership team to a Food for the Hungry training event. This isn't required, but could be very helpful in launching your group to change your campus.

## working with other campus ministries

A key component and a priority of the Campus Chapter should be learning to work with other campus ministries. This may mean service projects, this may mean simply supporting their ministry through word of mouth and encouragement. But, sustainable, long-lasting change must involve a spirit and vision of cooperation. We're not going to change the world alone.

### *Listen to the Campus Ministry leadership*

Listening, in many respects, is a lost art in a culture that has constant noise all around. A Food for the Hungry Campus Chapter must make an effort at listening to the other ministries and understanding or grasping their needs. Listening involves putting other people first. Other campus ministry organizations must feel like they're being understood. So, great effort must be taken to meet with other ministries in order to best understand what the spiritual climate is on campus and how best to meet such needs.

### *Learn from other Campus Ministries*

The Bible tells us that God created the sun, but the Bible also tells us that there is nothing new under the sun. This is important to remember. There are lessons to be learned from other campus ministries. Some things have gone very well, while other things should never have been done in the first place. Both items of information are important.

### *Love other Campus Ministries*

Religious bigotry in any form is ugly. Pride in any form is also ugly. Campus Chapters need to learn to love other campus ministries and in doing so, speak well of them, support them, and serve them. There is no Biblical basis for competition, but there is a Biblical mandate for cooperation.

While many campus ministries continue to struggle to coexist, this should not characterize the Campus Chapters associated with Food for the Hungry. The watching world finds disunity and inbred fighting among Christians a joke that isn't funny. While it's true that the Campus Chapter wants to accomplish something that may be distinct from other campus ministry organizations, such a vision should include learning to love those who are also seeking to teach people about the person and work of Christ.

A Campus Chapter that could listen well, learn from other people, and love other people will be equipped mightily to reach the entire campus community. And our desire is truly long lasting change.

## Food for the Hungry resources

Having set up your Campus Chapter, how can Food for the Hungry help and what resources are at your disposal?

### 1. Invite a speaker

Food for the Hungry can resource you with a speaker for your meeting or event. We would just need to know date, time, and type of event. We also would need to know at least one month in advance.

### 2. Literature and information

We have books, brochures, and video material that explains/outlines the vision and mission of Food for the Hungry and would be happy to send these materials to you.

### 3. A Training Event

Consider getting your leadership team or Campus Chapter to a conference or training event put on by Food for the Hungry. These events will be posted on our website or you could contact Food for the Hungry for more information.

### 4. International Experience/Service/Missions

Your Campus Chapter may consider serving overseas or individuals may consider serving overseas through either our short-term team options or through partnerships with communities abroad. Food for the Hungry serves in over 40 countries and we could facilitate a life changing international experience.

### 5. Internships

Food for the Hungry has internship options for various college students. These options are clearly marked on our website and individuals may also apply through our website if they would like to be considered for an internship within Food for the Hungry.

### 6. Child Sponsorship

Your Campus Chapter may decide to collectively sponsor a child. You would need to make a commitment to doing this, but we could walk you through the process and give you names of various children who need your support.

### 7. Adopt-a-Community

Campus Chapters may want to adopt a community and commit to lasting change with a singular city or country. This is a long-term commitment, but could be something the entire college community embraces.