

Expanding Meal and Grocery Program to Fight Food Insecurity

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Community Preceptors: Mark Atwood, Old Pine Community Center



Community Partner: Old Pine Community Center



- Non-profit organization, located in Society Hill, founded in 1977
- Offers after-school activities and summer camp for kids
- Facilitates free grocery delivery service and serves free to-go meals on weekends
- Rents space for local small businesses, music classes, private functions/fundraisers, sports leagues, and community meetings
- Mission - "to provide inclusive programs and services that uplift those in need by reducing inequality through the enhancement of education and the elimination of food insecurity."
- Website: <https://oldpinecommunitycenter.org/>



Context



- Partnership with Puentes de Salud - prepares grocery care packages for ~70 families
- Receives food donations from Philabundance and Food Connect
- Receives no city funding (all private donations/fundraising)



"Solar oven" activity with the summer camp kids.



Team's Experience



- Researched and initiated potential partnerships with other local programs fighting food insecurity
- Prepared/distributed oral health kits and smoking cessation materials
- Assisted with meal and care package preparation and distribution



Oral health kit with supplies from Penn Dental (thank you Penn Dental!).



Preparing chicken salad sandwiches and ravioli for weekend to-go meals.



Grocery delivery bags all packed up with oral health kits!



Reflection



Haley: Over the summer, I grew to understand how interconnected Old Pine Community Center (OPCC) is with other organizations. It's not just OPCC does OPCC's thing; it's an interdependent network.

Camryn: BTG allowed me to be in a different part of Philadelphia, and to work alongside people with completely different experiences and different understandings of health. The interconnectedness of the program allowed me to broaden the work I see myself doing in the future.