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## **Students Nationwide Compete for \$5,000 Campus Kitchen Launch Grant**

*AARP Foundation sponsors innovative video competition on senior hunger*

**October 14, 2014 – Washington, DC** – The Campus Kitchens Project, a national organization that empowers student volunteers to fight hunger in their community, today announced its launch grant video competition sponsored by AARP Foundation. From October 14 through 21, five universities and high schools from across the country will compete to win a grant to start their own Campus Kitchen, providing free, healthful meals to area older adults by using donated food that would otherwise go to waste.

The finalists have one week to rally supporters to vote for their school's video on [www.campuskitchens.org](http://www.campuskitchens.org). The top three schools with the most votes at the end of the voting period will win a \$5,000 grant sponsored by AARP Foundation to fight older adult hunger in their communities. In order to qualify as one of the five finalists for the competition, students from around the country [submitted a video](#) explaining why their community would benefit from a Campus Kitchen.

### **Competing Schools:**

University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY  
Walsh University, North Canton, OH  
Sacred Heart Prep School, Atherton, CA (high school)  
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI  
George Mason University, Fairfax, VA

At each Campus Kitchen nationwide, students lead efforts to combat food waste and hunger by collecting surplus food from community gardens, restaurants, and grocery stores and transforming it into healthy meals. In the last academic year, 36 Campus Kitchens across the country rescued more than 939,034 pounds of food and served 271,967 meals to 8,509 clients. The winners of the launch grant video competition will join the 17 other Campus Kitchens that focus on fighting food insecurity among older adults.

Of the 51 million people in the United States who are at risk of hunger, 9 million are over the age of 50. AARP Foundation is developing long-term, sustainable solutions to senior hunger through collaboration with hunger researchers, educators, other nonprofit organizations, and through traditional grant making. Now in its fifth year, AARP Foundation's innovative Drive to End Hunger campaign aims to raise awareness and funds to fight hunger among those 50 and older and to provide short and long-term solutions to older adult hunger.

### **About The Campus Kitchens Project**

Founded in 2001, The Campus Kitchens Project is a national organization that empowers student volunteers to fight hunger in their community. On 39 university and high school campuses across the country, students transform unused food from dining halls, grocery stores, restaurants, and farmers' markets into meals that are delivered to local agencies serving those in need. By taking the initiative to run a community kitchen, students develop entrepreneurial and leadership skills, along with a commitment to serve their community, that they will carry with them into future careers. Each Campus Kitchen goes beyond meals by using food as a tool to promote poverty solutions, implement garden initiatives, participate in nutrition education, and convene food policy events. To learn more about our work or bring The Campus Kitchens Project to your school, visit [www.campuskitchens.org](http://www.campuskitchens.org).

### **About AARP Foundation**

AARP Foundation is working to win back opportunity for struggling Americans 50+ by being a force for change on the most serious issues they face today: housing, hunger, income and isolation. By coordinating responses to these issues on all four fronts at once, and supporting them with vigorous legal advocacy, the Foundation serves the unique needs of those 50+ while working with local organizations nationwide to reach more people and make resources go further. AARP Foundation is the charitable affiliate of AARP. Learn more at [www.aarpfoundation.org](http://www.aarpfoundation.org).