

# Resolution 62: Supporting Cornell Hunger Relief's the Big Red Food Drive

**Abstract:** This resolution calls for administrative and assembly support for the Big Red Food Drive, an annual non-perishable food drive that directs non-used dining money, Big Red Bucks (BRBs), before they are forfeited.

**Sponsored by:** Duncan Cady '23, Agnes Golden '23, Clara Matton '22

**Reviewed by:** 2/3<sup>rd</sup> full assembly majority vote

**Type of Action:** Legislation

**Originally Presented:**

**Current Status:**

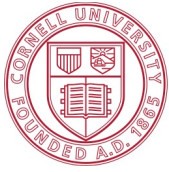
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**Whereas,** Cornell University occupies a unique and special relationship with the Ithaca community that can often include taking actions to support those near our campus in need, spreading the goodwill of our university, and better representing the Cornell spirit of positive and impactful support, something centrally support in Cornell with resources like the David M. Einhorn Center for Community Engagement;

**Whereas,** Many passionate Cornell students use their free time to seek such incentives of local impact and community service, including supporting, volunteering, and organizing students organizations committed to these virtues, channeling their drive for change to create tangle local impact beyond our campus;

**Whereas,** Cornell Hunger Relief (CHR) is one of these student-run organizations, combating food insecurity in Ithaca and Tompkins County while also educating the Cornell community on local hunger issues, including ways that they can take action to relieve hunger;

**Whereas,** CHR has worked with local partner organizations to learn more about the level of hunger in the community and offer the best outlet for making an impact with the community, planned actives to relevant to current hunger needs by concentrating resources available to college students with those in need, and endured through persistent pandemic era challenges;



## Cornell University Student Assembly

31 **Whereas**, Friendship Donations Network (FDN), an almost entirely volunteer-run organization  
32 fighting hunger and food insecurity in Ithaca and Tompkins County uses programs that serve  
33 more than 2,000 people a week, and divert over 1,000 lbs. of good food from local landfills  
34 every day and is continuously welcoming to donations of non-perishable food;

35

36 **Whereas**, At the end of the Spring semester, students with unspent BRBs have no choice but to  
37 forfeit their money to Cornell Dining,

38

39 **Whereas**, in 2010 upon the discovery that a substantial number of Big Red Bucks (BRBs),  
40 Cornell student dining dollars, were going unspent at the end of each academic year, the  
41 founders of CHR started a large scale food drive using BRB that would normally go unused;  
42 They proposed spending unused BRBs that would be forfeited on nonperishable foods that could  
43 be collected and donated to the Ithaca community; This came to be known as the Big Red Food  
44 Drive;

45

46 **Whereas**, During Big Red Food Drive, CHR donates an incredible amount of non-perishable  
47 food to the Friendship Donations Network (FDN); With nightly campus pickups, FDN  
48 distributes the food to mutual aid programs around Ithaca and Thompkins County, collecting the  
49 following totals over the past few years:

- 50 ○ 1,280lbs of food in 2017
- 51 ○ 3,057lbs of food in 2018
- 52 ○ 1,520lbs of food in 2019

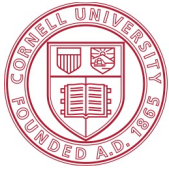
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54 **Whereas**, The FDN describes the Big Red Food Drive as "a wonderful source of non-perishable  
55 food for the local hunger-relief community... The donations from the Big Red Food Drive are  
56 the biggest source of shelf-stable foods that FDN distributes and offer a nice balance to the  
57 perishable food donations that we distribute each day" and FDN each year "look[s] forward to a  
58 continued partnership with Cornell Hunger Relief";

59

60 **Whereas**, Despite unprecedented community need and increased awareness of food insecurity,  
61 The Big Red Food Drive was not able to operate at Cornell during the Spring of 2020 and 2021  
62 due to Covid-19 pandemic challenges, losing potentially thousands of pounds of food for FDN;

63



## Cornell University Student Assembly

64 Whereas, Cornell University's continued support for programs such as this is instrumental in  
65 supporting hunger... continued commitment to the Ithaca community... stepping up as student  
66 and community members to make continued progress in ending food insecurity

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68 **Be it therefore resolved,** Students should have a say in what their leftover dining money, in the  
69 form of Big Red Bucks (BRBs), are used for upon the end of the spring term before the credits  
70 are forfeited;

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72 **Be it therefore resolved,** This Assembly believes community engagement is an especially part  
73 of the Cornell experience and is a central virtue to our student body, thus incentives like the Big  
74 Red Food Drive by Cornell Hunger Relief should be publicly supported and promoted when  
75 possible in conjunction with other student organizations and all networks of relevant university  
76 communications, including but not limited to social media, posters, student emails, and in and  
77 out of the classroom announcements;

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79 **Be it therefore resolved,** This Assembly endorses the Big Red Food Drive and the work of  
80 Cornell Hunger Relief, and asks the Cornell central administration for the same support in this  
81 program going further to prevent this program from ever falling absent again;

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83 **Be it further resolved,** The Student Assembly helps in all ways to reestablish the Big Red Food  
84 Drive including taking action beyond promotion and advocacy, including challenging all  
85 students to donate what time and Big Red Bucks they can in support;

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87 **Be it finally resolved,** that the Dining Services Committee is tasked with further researching all  
88 viable outcomes of reporting and donating unused dining money in the form of Big Red Bucks  
89 (BRBs) before they are forfeited;

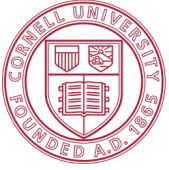
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91 Respectfully Submitted,

92 Duncan Cady '23

93 *Students With Disabilities Representative At-Large, Student Assembly*

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Cornell University  
Student Assembly

- 95 Agnes Golden '23
- 96 *Cornell Hunger Relief*
- 97
- 98 Clara Matton '22
- 99 *Cornell Hunger Relief*