



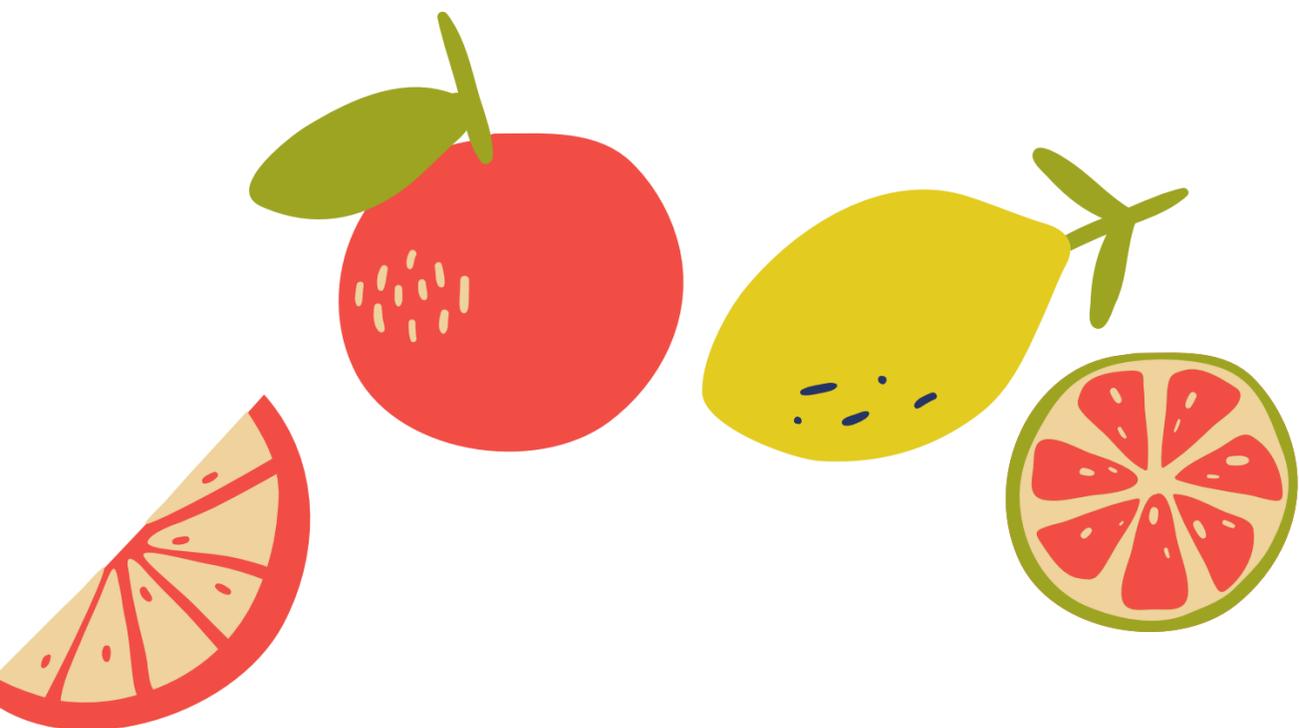
THE UNIVERSITY  
OF CHICAGO  
**INSTITUTE  
OF POLITICS**



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
**SUSAN AND RICHARD KIPHART  
CENTER FOR GLOBAL HEALTH  
AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

# SOLVING WORLD HUNGER

A Student Policy Challenge



# SUSTAIN-A-BITE



# World Hunger Policy Challenge

Institute of Politics & Kiphart Center for  
Global Health and Social Development

## Presented By:

Fernanda  
Garcia  
2nd year  
Undergraduate

Faith  
Kumi  
2nd year  
Undergraduate

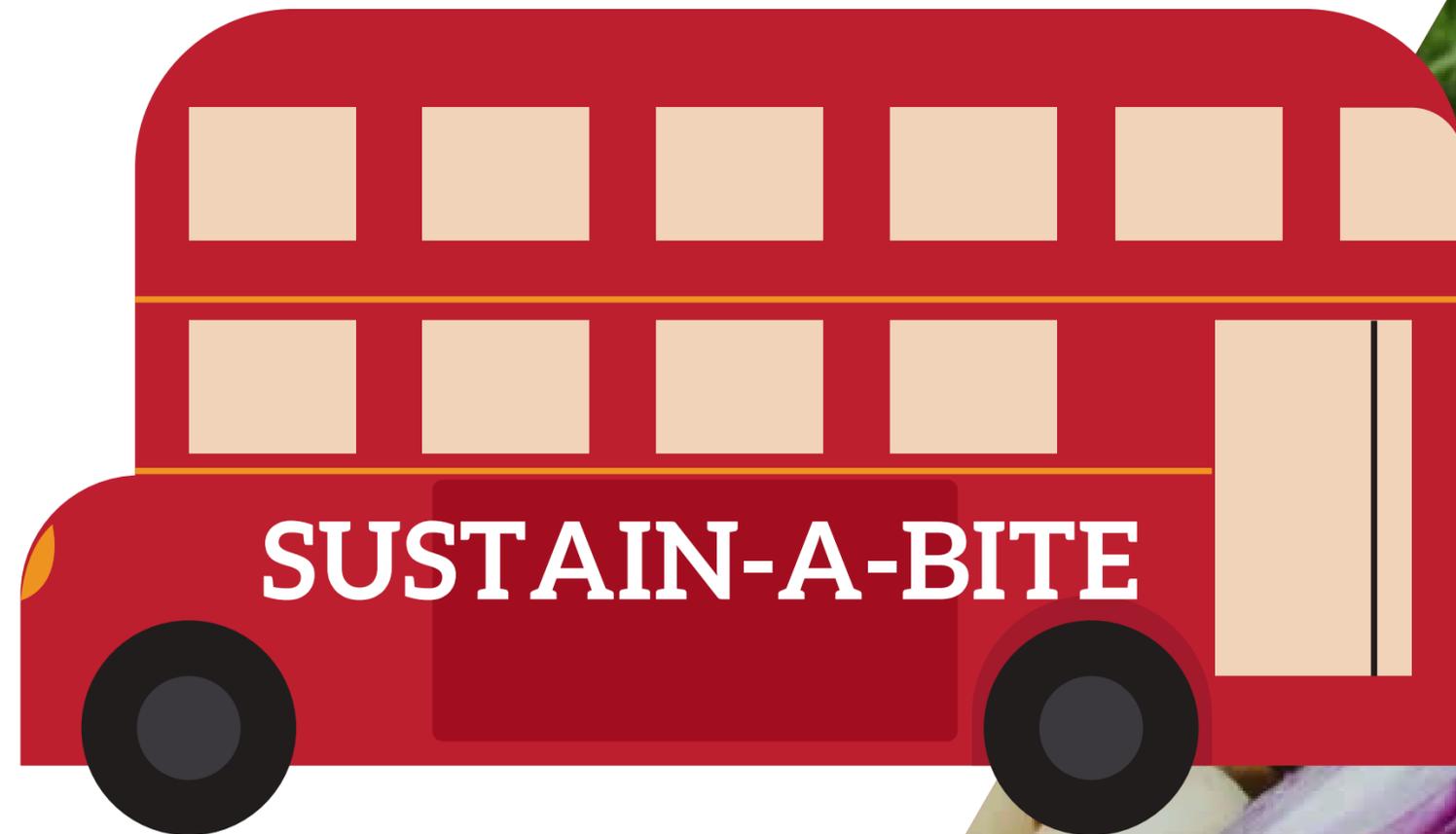
Hanna  
Ho  
3rd year  
Undergraduate

# Our Mission and Vision

**Preserving Human  
Dignity**

**Sourcing Healthy Foods**

**Food Waste  
Management**



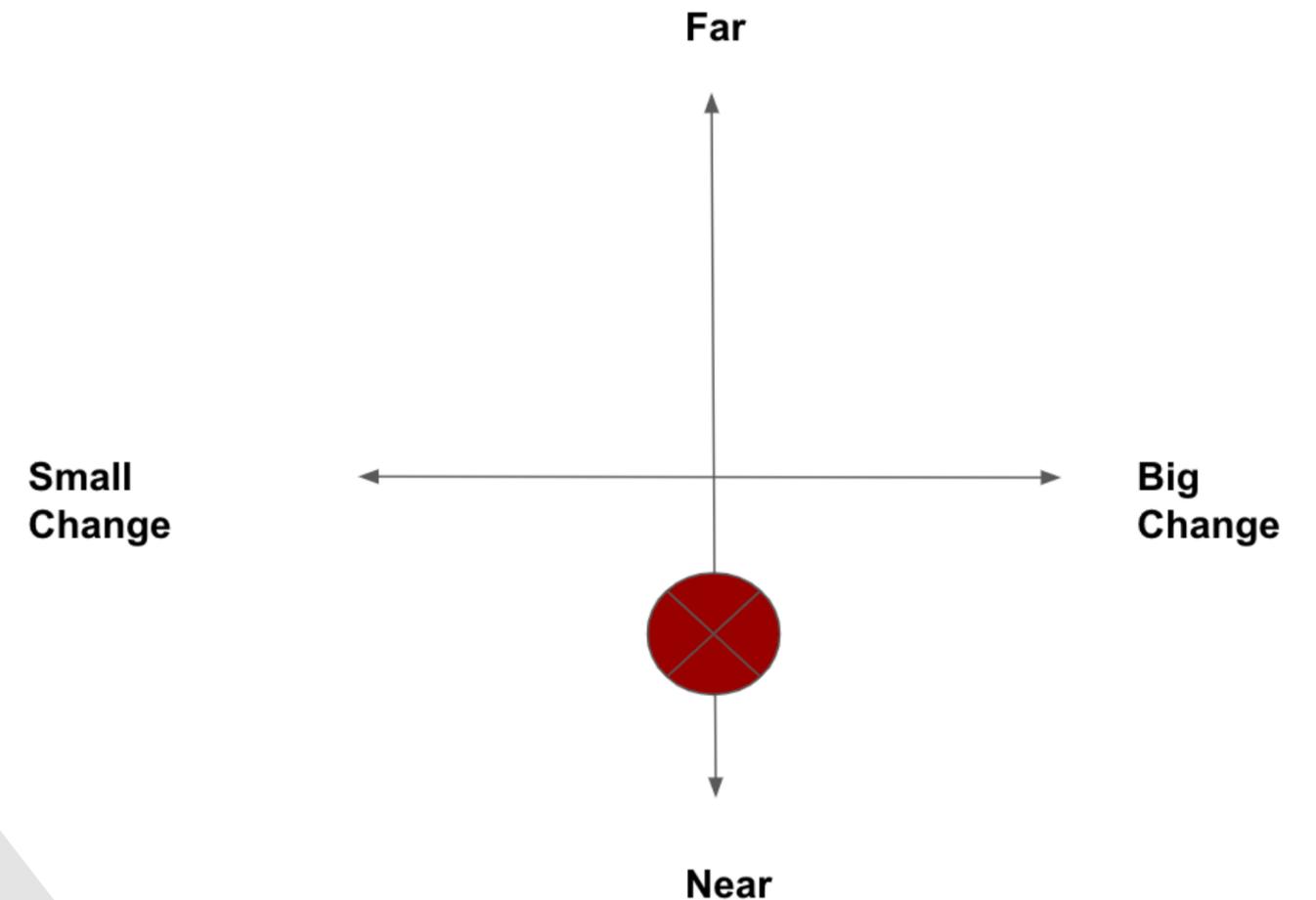
# Our Target

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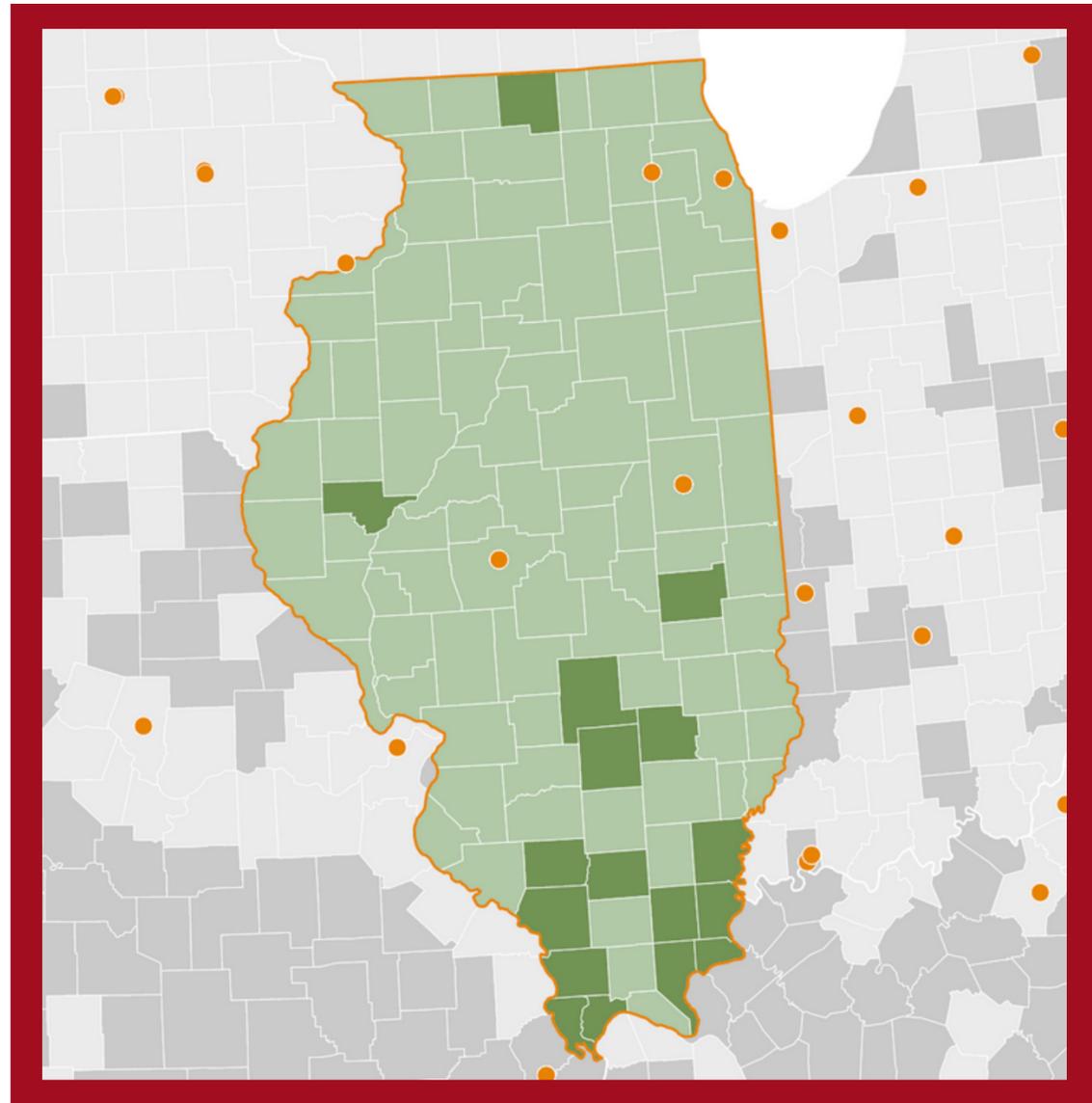
**Creating personal and meaningful changes in our community**

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# Impact Map



# Routing



- Indicates highly concentrated counties with food insecurity

**We want to launch in Cook County and eventually expand our resources through Illinois.**

# Funding and Partnership

Inspired by France's Law Against Food Waste

46,000 tons of food a year have been rescued that would otherwise be thrown away

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Applying this locally:

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The Good Samaritan Law

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1/5 of Chicago experiences food insecurity

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There are 132,000 tons of food waste in Chicago each year from groceries alone





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SUSAN AND RICHARD KIPHART  
CENTER FOR GLOBAL HEALTH  
AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

# World Hunger Policy Challenge

## SUSTAIN-A-BITE

### Presented By:

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The Covid pandemic exposed the issue that access to healthy and nutritious food is a crisis. Approximately one million people in Illinois are food insecure as a result of a lack of food accessibility and affordability (Feeding America 2023). Looking more closely at Illinois, Rock Island County, Kane County, Cook County, Champaign County, and Sangamon County are the counties most affected by food insecurity (Feeding America 2023). Our food pantry bus, Sustain-A-Bite, is concentrating our efforts initially in Cook County before eventually moving into these other counties. Our bus will strengthen the new Chicago Food Equity Council's initiatives of eliminating barriers to food pantry expansion and maximizing nutrition programs and benefits.

Food inequality is an issue that drives social change, but unfortunately, many pantries falter in addressing social issues that affect the individual. The psychological impact of receiving free food can create a stigma that prevents those most in need from getting the help they require. People acquire an identity of themselves not just from what they eat but from where and how they get the food (Culture Decanted 2014). With our food pantry bus, we don't want to place any burden on those who are hungry. We refer to those we serve as "clients" to shift the rhetoric towards a place of more respect, and we've made the process easy to ensure the service is as easily accessible as possible. We recognize the importance of preserving dignity and giving hope.

We plan on sourcing food from grocery stores as charitable donations, and then through both fundraising and volunteer efforts operate the pantry. As of 2/11/2016 under French law, supermarket stores bigger than 400m<sup>2</sup> must make contracts with charitable organizations to donate unsold foods to (Giordano, 4.3). Food retailers are also not allowed to destroy foods still fit for consumption. This was later extended to mass catering and the food industry in 2019, as well as obliging restaurants to order a to-go box option. This has resulted in around 46,000 tons of food a year being rescued that would otherwise be thrown away, and donations to food banks have increased by 20% (Saltzman).

We hope to apply something similar in Chicago. The statistics for the city of Chicago and France are very similar, with  $\frac{1}{5}$  of the population experiencing food insecurity in both places. As of 2017, there were 262 different grocery stores in the city, and Chicago produces around 55 million pounds of food each month with around 40% of it coming from grocery stores (Mid-America.). This would convert to around 11,000 tons of food just from grocery stores each month, far more than the 46,000 tons a year from France. 20% of Chicago's population is around

540,000, and the average person consumes one ton of food a year (datacommons.org) . The 132,000 tons of food waste in Chicago from groceries alone each year could be used to contribute to ⅓ of people's diets who are food insecure. Ultimately, the problem that many major cities around the world face regarding food insecurity is not a lack of quantity of food, but rather a lack of good distribution, and this initiative seeks to tackle that problem by repurposing unsold foods and distributing them to those who would consume it.

Food inequality is often associated with health disparities. The lack of access to supermarkets and fresh food options is more pronounced in Black and Latino areas we are targeting. Moreover, the diabetes-related death rate among Blacks is 70% higher than among non-Blacks. Access to healthy and nutritious food is crucial for good health outcomes, and unlike many food pantries that serve highly saturated and sugary prepackaged foods, we aim to provide more nutritious options. We want to ensure that we're not exacerbating the already growing concern of health.

As part of our main priorities, we aim to maximize the benefits of SNAP. With the recent increase in SNAP Allotments by the Illinois Department of Human Services in October 2022, we're hopeful that improved access to these programs and policies will reduce the need to rely on individual and household-level strategies that may have negative implications for health across the life course. We want to educate our clients about these services through the QR codes on our bus. We will offer further support for acquiring these additional services.

We refuse to accept that in a city as prosperous as Chicago, anyone should go hungry. We believe that access to healthy and nutritious food is not just a privilege, but a basic human right. Our goal is not just to provide meals, but to ensure that those who are most vulnerable in our society have a fighting chance at survival. We know that the impact of food insecurity goes far beyond an empty stomach. It affects mental health, physical health, and the ability to thrive in all areas of life. That's why our mission is so important. We're not just providing food, we're providing hope.

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