FOOD DONATIONS TO THE UNION MISSION

The Union Mission Ministries is a local non-profit that Monarch Dining has partnered with many times in the past. Since November is about giving “thanks,” Monarch Dining wanted to show appreciation for this partnership and to help with The Union Mission Ministries’ efforts to “serve the least, the last, and the lost in our community...without a home and with nowhere else to turn.”

Just before Thanksgiving, Monarch Dining donated over 600 pounds of food to The Union Mission, which included 10 frozen turkeys, on November 22. Later in the month, Monarch Dining donated approximately 275 sandwich boxed lunches and 80 hot dogs to The Union Mission Ministries on November 30.

PEPSI & P.O.D. MARKET VILLAGE BIKE RAFFLE

Throughout November, Meal Plan members and P.O.D. Market Village customers had the opportunity to win a brand new Kent mountain bicycle and helmet. In partnership with Pepsi, a winner was selected and announced before Winter Break. Congratulations to our winner, Evan Morr, who received the bike on December 7 and just in time for the holidays (pictured left)!

MONARCH DINING SUPPORTING ODU ENTREPRENEUR, JANAY BROWN

Old Dominion University recently opened a new retail store, THE Monarch Way, which provides students, alumni, faculty and staff entrepreneurs the opportunity to gain selling experience in a retail environment. Monarch Dining supported ODU student/entrepreneur, Janay Brown, by placing a large order for her Bacon Truffles from her Full Belly Delights, LLC. Since kitchen space was needed for the large order, Monarch Dining invited Janay to use one of the Broderick Dining Commons’ kitchens as well as distribute these Bacon Truffles during the end-of-semester “Late Night Breakfast at Broderick Dining Commons” event.

Janay was very thankful for the opportunity and posted on her social media, “So this year is really ending in a bang! Old Dominion University ordered 1,000 pieces of Full Belly Delights, LLC Bacon Truffles for the Monarch Dining Late Night Breakfast and they went over very well! I had a blast and I hope to continue to be a part of this awesome tradition before finals each year to come!”
LATE NIGHT BREAKFAST AT BRODERICK DINING COMMONS

On December 8, Housing & Residence Life and Monarch Dining partnered up to hold their annual end-of-semester “Late Night Breakfast” event. 1,276 students received free breakfast at Broderick Dining Commons from 10pm until midnight to fuel up for finals. Monarch Dining also offered free stadium cups to students, highlighting Monarch traditions such as Spirit Fridays, Activity Hour, Dominion Rock, Week of Welcome, and Ice Cream & Cake.

As a special treat for this event, Monarch Dining had ODU student and entrepreneur, Janay Brown, featured in the front lobby of Broderick Dining Commons to allow students to taste her Fully Belly Delights, LLC items. Monarch Dining also had 3 Fun Teams help out at the event. Fun Team is Monarch Dining’s fundraising program where student organizations earn $250.

MEAL SWIPE DONATION

From December 4-8, students had the opportunity to donate meal swipes to help support those in need. A total of 40 students donated a meal swipe at the University Card Center’s office. On December 18, Monarch Dining donated over 600 pounds of food to help support the Buffalow Family and Friends Community Days’ “2017 Warm and Fuzzy” event, which took place in the Cuffee Community Center near the Norfolk/Chesapeake border.

Nischelle Buffalow, founder of Buffalow Family and Friends Community Days, literally operates the non-profit out of her house. From storing donations she receives from other people and companies for future events to cooking food to feed hundreds of people, Ms. Buffalow helps those in need in the South Norfolk area. One of Ms. Buffalow’s annual event is her “Warm and Fuzzy” event where children in need receive free coats, socks, scarfs, hats, gloves, blankets, etc. The event also offers a free warm meal. There were over 500 people that attended the “2017 Warm and Fuzzy” event, and Monarch Dining was happy to help support!

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6th ANNUAL ARAMARK/UP CENTER “TEAM UP” HOLIDAY PARTY

The 6th Annual Aramark & The Up Center “Team Up” Holiday Party was held on December 9. Team Up, one of many programs at The Up Center, is a one-on-one mentoring program that matches adult volunteers age 20 and older with youth ages 6-17. The mentors serve as role models to the youth, who often come from single-parent or foster homes, or who desire more time with a responsible, caring adult. One challenge of the program is that matches feel somewhat isolated and alone from other matches and would like to have more interaction with their peers.

The party was held in Broderick Dining Commons again this year. The Up Center had 64 “Team Up” members attend the party, where they had the opportunity to experience the new facility and enjoy a free holiday meal compliments of the Aramark at ODU team. Recently, the “Team Up” program received a $1,000 donation from a generous donor. With the donation, The Up Center purchased new winter jackets and gave them as holiday presents to each mentee at the event. Aramark at ODU’s Front Line Manager, Ron Brooks, also donated 65 tubs of cotton candy that the mentees (and even some mentors) enjoyed! Mary Midyette, Team Up Mentoring Program Supervisor said, “We had mentees starting to ask questions about the dorms. Others asking if they were eating in the same building as the college students. Giving our mentees the opportunity to step foot on a college campus inspires our children. Aramark has helped show our mentees the world’s endless possibilities.”
On December 12, Monarch Dining held their annual event where faculty/staff and students have the opportunity to decorate their own free gingerbread cookie while listening to holiday tunes! Over 100 people stopped by to decorate a cookie in Webb Center’s front lobby. This event is always a favorite among students to take a quick mental break from exams and find themselves in the holiday spirit!

DONATION DRIVE FOR THE UP CENTER

Aramark units throughout the Tidewater area held donation drives to support The Up Center, a local non-profit organization that provides foster care and adoption services for children. The Up Center’s mission is to protect children, strengthen families, empower people in crisis, and maximize independence for those with disabilities. The Up Center has served as a safety net for the community for over 125 years, and today, help over 10,000 people in the Hampton Roads area each year. This is the sixth year that Aramark and The Up Center have teamed up during the holiday season.

One of the many programs offered by The Up Center is their “Parents as Teachers” program. This program supports new parents and infants by giving parents the tools and resources needed to adequately provide a safe environment for their children, and training to become effective parents. One of the Aramark employee’s daughters is a member of VA Tidewater Swimming and seeking volunteer hours. So this year, Aramark joined forces with VA Tidewater Swimming to collect much-needed baby supplies. Between November and December, both groups collected hundreds of toiletries, baby wipes, bathing essentials, clothes, books, toys and even a cash donation to help benefit The Up Center’s “Parents as Teachers” program right before the holidays!

4th ANNUAL GINGERBREAD COOKIE DECORATING EVENT

On December 12, Monarch Dining held their annual event where faculty/staff and students have the opportunity to decorate their own free gingerbread cookie while listening to holiday tunes! Over 100 people stopped by to decorate a cookie in Webb Center’s front lobby. This event is always a favorite among students to take a quick mental break from exams and find themselves in the holiday spirit!

DONATIONS TO UNION MISSION AND VIRGINIA FOOD TRUST

Non-profit organizations, especially those that help people with food insecurities, are the busiest during the cold, winter days and during holidays. Monarch Dining was happy to donate food to local non-profit organizations, Union Mission and Virginia Food Trust, which assist our community members in need.

The Union Mission serves the least, the last, and the lost in our community including men, women, and children without a home and with nowhere else to turn. Monarch Dining donated just over 2,250 cartons of milk, 420 cartons of orange juice and 150 pounds of food.

The Virginia Food Trust’s mission is to improve access to healthy foods and address issues of food insecurity through research, education, and program development. Monarch Dining donated about 680 pounds of food to The Virginia Food Trust, which fed over 550 people in Norfolk and Portsmouth.
On December 18 and 19, the first family hosted their annual ODU Faculty/Staff Holiday Celebration in Broderick Dining Commons. With the help of Webb Center Housekeeping and Webb Media, the dining facility was decked out in holiday decorations and the atmosphere was lightened with holiday music. Special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Broderick for taking the time to meet-and-greet with members of the Dining team. Monarch Dining is always happy to be a part of this annual event by preparing the food and serving the University community members with a smile!