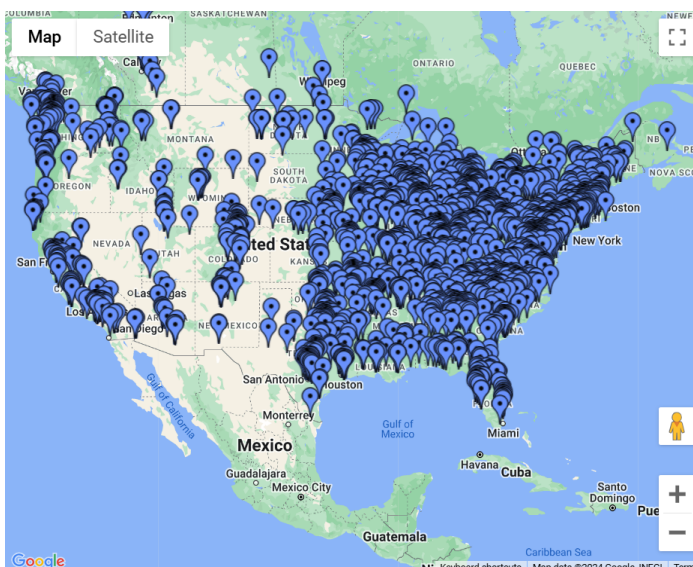


Making a Community Pantry

By Leo HK

My IMP project was to make a community pantry. A community pantry is a small box, placed outside, which can store food. The idea is that people who do not have access to food can come and take food out of the pantry for free, and then the people who have access to food can donate, by supplying the pantry with non-perishables. This is summarized in the philosophy, “Take what you need, give what you can.” In the project, I learned a lot about woodworking including marking, cutting, planning and assembly. But, My IMPp was more than just woodworking. It was about combating food insecurity and poverty. Food insecurity is a common issue. Approximately 1 in 3 adults in Massachusetts are food insecure, according to the Greater Boston Food Bank. But we can help fix it. Over the course of this project, I learned about the amount of impact that many mini pantries can have! There are many free pantries that exist in the country. One can see here in this map:



I also learned about food bank organizations such as the Greater Boston Food Bank. I found my design on the website of an organization called The Little Free Pantries. It came with a set of cuts that I had to make of a piece of wood, called a *cut list*. However, I had to rearrange the entire cut list, because I had a different sized piece of wood than the workers

at The Little Free Pantries. On another woodworking note, I discovered marking was a lot of work. Marking is the process of drawing lines on wood to indicate where the cuts and holes should go. It was difficult because I had to mark and re-mark until the project was within 16" accuracy. But, I persevered, and overall, I found this project to be very inspirational and educational. I exercised critical thinking, emotional intelligence, and many other Acera core capacities. But ultimately, my project was about showing compassion for people in need.

Citations:

The Greater Boston Food Bank: <https://www.gbfb.org/>

Little Free Pantry Mapping: <http://mapping.littlefreepantry.org/>