News

UConn Solidarity Fund to put community Fridge in Rowe

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The University of Connecticut Solidarity Fund (UCSF) is opening a community fridge on the second floor of the Rowe Center outside of the Academic Achievement Center.

The solidarity fund secured $1,000 to purchase the fridge, and are currently planning to build a new pantry, according to Jake Timchak, an eight-semester economics of sustainable development and management major and an active member of the solidarity fund.

The community fridge will be a resource in which anyone can give or take food unconditionally. It is similar to other programs like little free libraries, operating with a "give what you can, take what you need" mentality, Timchak said.

According to UConn's December 2025 report on food insecurity by the Office of Budget, Planning and Institutional Research, 37% of UConn students reported food insecurity, with logistical issues, specifically far distance and limited opening hours, being cited as top reasons for a lack of utilization for existing food support programs.

"By placing the fridge in the center of campus at Rowe and leaving it open for the building's long Monday through Friday hours, we directly address these issues," Timchak said in an email. "Additionally, by creating a hub with minimal barriers to entry or university intervention, we further lower the barriers to entry."

In addition to the community fridge, the solidarity fund is organizing artists to paint a



Students build a food pantry at the Innovation Zone on April 29, 2026.

PHOTO BY NORA MARIANO, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

mural on the wall behind the fridge, as well as working with the Academic Achievement Center to organize a shared labor agreement, according to Laura Coderre, a sixth-semester Environmental and Natural Resource Economics student and active member of the solidarity fund.

The fund aims for the mural to be designed by UConn and Mansfield community according to Coderre, taking "inspiration from community murals around the country and bringing their own experiences into it."

Artists interested in helping with the mural can reach out to the solidarity fund on their Instagram @uconnsolidarityfund. Designs are welcome anytime, with the mural implementation planned for early next semester, Coderre said.

"In the future, the fund also looks to engage local restaurants and supermarkets to facilitate donations," Timchak said. "We will also look to stock the fridge with information on community resources such as rental assistance, HIV prevention, PrEP prescriptions and harm reduction supplies such as naloxone and fentanyl test strips."

Timchak said this is the fund's effort to "create a non-hierarchal physical center for collective action, where everyone is involved in creating a better UConn."

The solidarity fund works



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE UCONN SOLIDARITY FUND

with fellow organizations dedicated to combating food insecurity, including Fridgeport ,an existing community fridge initiative in Bridgeport, and UConn Environmental Health and Safety, which helps develop effective safety protocols.

The UConn Solidarity Fund, founded in 2025, works to provide equality through a solidarity approach, according to its Instagram page.

Community fridges are becoming more common in Connecticut, with community fridges currently located in Bridgeport and Yale University sponsoring its own fridge called the Dwight Community Fridge.

Memorial service held for deceased UConn students

by Ariana Mohamed
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The University of Connecticut held a memorial service last Wednesday for students that have passed away during the academic year.

The ceremony is held annually and took place in the Student Union Ballroom at the Storrs campus at 3 p.m.

The following students were honored at the ceremony: Emmanuel Frimpong, an undergraduate student in the College of Engineering, Olivia Jade Iv, an undergraduate student in the School of Social Work at UConn Hartford, Leeha Reddy, an undergraduate student in Academic Center for Exploratory Students at UConn Hartford, Zachary Rubin, an undergraduate student in the School of Fine Arts and School of Business and Sean Riccard, a doctoral student in molecular and cell biology, according to a UConn Today article.

"The death of a student member of our campus community is tragic and at UConn we are committed to responding with care and support," the Dean of Students website reads.

UConn spokesperson Stephanie Reitz said that the university extends its deepest condolences to family and friends of the students.

"UConn's Division of Student Life and Enrollment coordinates the yearly memorial event in collaboration with other departments and divisions, providing an opportunity for the UConn community to remember the students who have passed during the current academic year," Reitz wrote in an email.

At the ceremony, family members were presented with a certificate to honor the students academic achievement while at UConn, according to UConn Today.

"In times like these, it's important to remember the strength of community and the care we can offer one another," Reitz wrote. "We also urge their fellow students to take advantage of resources available through SHAW–Mental Health to help them process the complex emotions associated with loss," Reitz said.

A live stream of the event was also recorded for people who could not attend the event in person.

The Daily Campus

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