ND Food Pantries Get A 28 Ton Bounty

by KVRR Newsroom
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Hundreds of college students got their hands dirty today picking a 25 ton harvest to help the hungry.

About 250 Valley City State University Freshmen, faculty, and volunteers helped pick two acres of squash this morning.

The boxes of trucks were then loaded onto semis for distribution at food banks all across the state, providing more than 45,000 meals for people in need.

And students and staff say today work provided a powerful lesson about paying it forward.

"Being able to be out here hands-on, experiential learning, and thinking about where this food will end up and who it's going to benefit. It's just a win-win-win project all around," said Valley City State University President, Steve Shirley.

"It means a lot to me to know that we're doing this for a good cause to help families out," added VCSU freshman, Savannah McMillan.

After hearing of the shortages some pantries across the area were experiencing three years ago, Pastor Dan Faust decided to donate some his crop, and each year his harvest has grown bigger and bigger.

"It's food on the table and wow, that's the basic you know--that's more important than house. That's more important than a bed to sleep in. That's sustaining life, so I figure you don't argue with that," he said.

More than 300 pantries in North Dakota will get some of the squash donations.