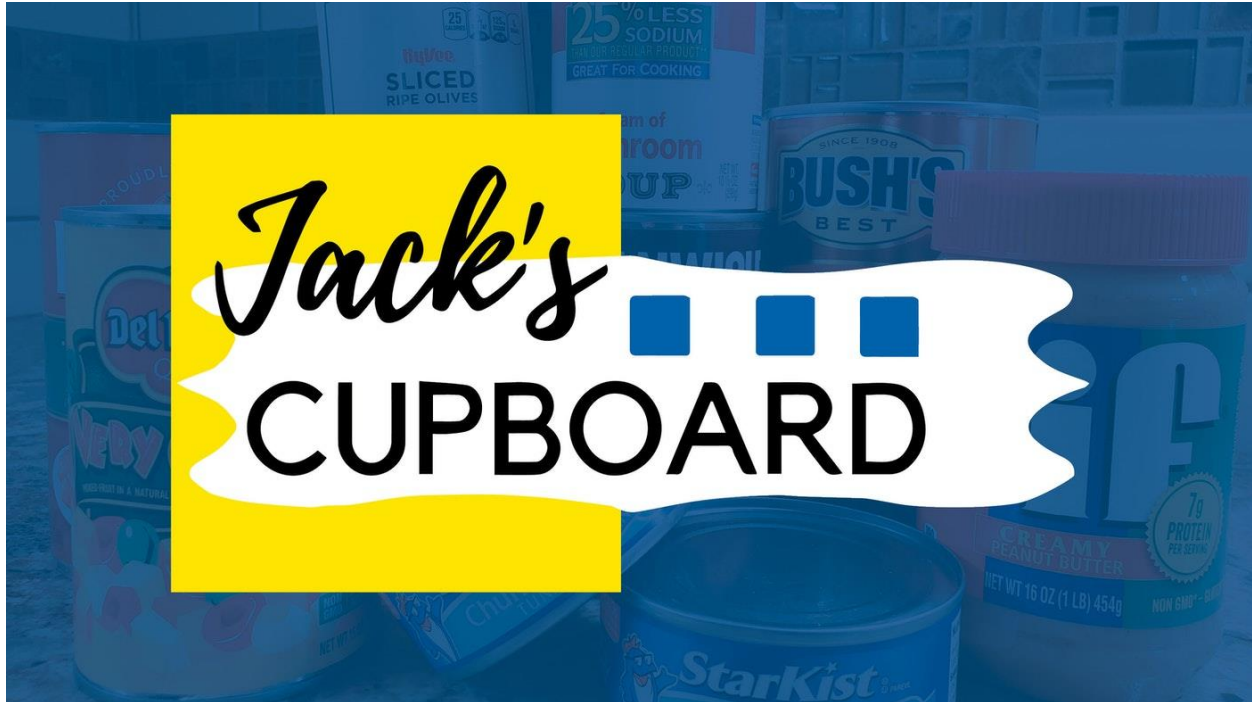




## October Volunteer of the Month Celebrated



The Helpline Center congratulates the volunteers of Jack's Cupboard on being named the October 2020 Volunteers of the Month, an area-wide award program sponsored by the Helpline Center and First Bank and Trust.

Chris Kaberline and Kas Williams met a few times during the summer of 2018 to discuss the possibility of creating a food pantry on campus. The campus was ready and they had great support and energy moving forward. Since 2018, Jack's Cupboard has been combating food insecurity by ensuring students who struggle financially to purchase food are provided this free resource supported by students, faculty and staff. It is available to all students with a student ID and a bag to collect food items (although Jack's Cupboard can supply students with a bag, if needed).

Normally during the summer, they serve about 3-5 students per week. This summer, they noticed a significant increase in number of students served, averaging about 10-15 students per week. COVID-19 shed light on existing issues that currently impact college campuses nationwide: food insecurity and housing instability. They knew early on that the pantry would remain

open throughout the pandemic and quickly determined the best approach to provide services and adjust hours to meet the needs of students. The campus & community were generous in donating to the pantry, which helped keep food on the shelves.

Kas Williams, Chris Kaberline, and Dr. Erica Moore all give of their time to help students and to fight food insecurity. Williams said, “Our role with the pantry is everything from stocking the shelves to greeting our students. We do our best to ensure our students have a great experience and spread the news about Jack’s Cupboard. Students often times will purchase a textbook before buying food. That textbook is an investment in their future. My personal motto is; no student should have to make that choice.”

Congratulations to the volunteers of Jack’s Cupboard on being our much-deserved October Volunteers of the Month!

For information on volunteer opportunities or the Volunteer of the Month program, please contact Allison Schmitt at [bkvol@helplinecenter.org](mailto:bkvol@helplinecenter.org) or call 211 for more information.