

FORCEs Feminist Pharmacy - Progress Report

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Project Manager Name

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Requested Metrics

We chose to use the amount of items purchased/distributed to assess this project due to the sensitive nature (shyness) that folks can experience when thinking about menstruation. To date we have distributed:

19 period panties (various sizes)
7 adaptive period panties (various sizes)
8 period boxers (various sizes)
3 sets of hygiene products (6 shampoo, 6 conditioner, 6 body wash accompanied by 1 order of the refillable bottles for guests to borrow - we gave the hygiene items out VERY quickly, which is why we ordered 2 for our second distribution which has not happened yet. The second distribution will allow us to assess if guests return with their bottles)
60 menstrual discs
60 menstrual cups
10 reusable pads - 1 other order was cancelled by the vendor so we are waiting to place another order after we sort out the vendor issues

Project Accomplishments

Beyond the diversity of items we have been able to distribute, we have also:

- Created 2 educational pamphlets (intern-made) on menstrual cups and discs, which actively encouraged visitors to our tables to take the products they had thought were "too intimidating" to use in the past. This provided both professional development for our interns and development for guests who didn't know about these sustainable options. Our Campus Pantry dates were in late February and early March, which were the first times we used these pamphlets, but we also distributed them at the EveryBODY fair and Admitted Students Day to incoming freshmen. We saw GREAT success with these pamphlets and are excited to use this as inspiration for future student-made resources.
- Completed 2 distributions at the Campus Pantry (where we tabled and distributed items,

educational materials, and answered questions), providing much needed menstrual hygiene products to their visitors

- Completed distributions at the EveryBODY Fair led by Campus Health, which celebrates body neutrality, healthy diets, eating disorder harm reduction, and more.
- Completed 1 donation to the Queer Closet in the LGBTQ+ Student Space (now called Pride Student Space), allowing trans masculine folks to have access to gender-affirming period products
- Completed 1 donation packaging + delivery to local refugee support group Owls & Panthers, which provided women & femme refugees in Tucson with much-needed menstrual hygiene products and educational materials

Next Steps

We are aiming to do our next distribution of hygiene items (shower products) which will allow us to better gauge the success of our distributing the refillable bottles. We aim to do this after we return from Spring Break (starting Week of March 16, ideally on the Wednesday following break which is when FORCE is doing a self-care discussion). Our second distribution will then be closer to Reading Day. This will allow us to incorporate it into Women & Gender Student Space programming which uplifts students' mental and physical well-being during the stressful time of finals season, when many folks forget/aren't able to care for themselves due to stress.

We also aim to do at least one more Campus Pantry distribution this semester, and incorporate the menstrual products into Trans Day of Visibility on March 31 to provide gender-affirming options (more boxers, etc.) to trans masculine folks. We will also be tabling on March 26 at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Tucson, March 27 at the Feminist Symposium, and March 28 at the Tucson Zinefest. We believe that these off-campus and academic-leaning outreach events will give us the opportunity to reach students who don't frequent campus events (which is a niche population we have yet to make lots of contacts with) and will therefore broaden not only the reach of this particular grant project but of FORCE more generally for sexual and menstrual education in the greater Tucson community. We anticipate that March, as it is Women's Herstory Month, will be our busiest month for outreach.

Challenges Faced

Our only current concern is seeing the efficacy of folks returning with their refillable bottles for the shower products. We will be better able to assess this after our second distribution - we plan to put out marketing reminding guests to bring back their bottles.

Media/Links