

FORCEs Feminist Pharmacy - Progress Report

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Requested Metrics

In spring, FORCE distributed:

- 61 pairs of period underwear, including adaptive and boxer styles
- 35 reusable cloth pads
- 201 reusable menstrual cups and discs
- 1,120 sustainably made, disposable pads (regular and super size)
- 320 sustainably made, disposable tampons (regular and super size)
- 632 sustainably made, disposable liners (regular and thong style)
- 544 ounces of liquid shampoo, body wash, and conditioner + 2-ounce reusable bottles for distribution
- 114 shampoo, conditioner, and body wash bars

In total, 3,027 sustainability-minded hygiene products were distributed.

Project Accomplishments

FORCE has stocked the Feminist pharmacy with sustainable menstrual health products, including reusable menstrual cups from The August brand, reusable menstrual discs from Flex Company, period underwear in a variety of styles, including adaptive options from The Period Company, and, sustainable, decomposable single-use menstrual products such as pads and tampons also from August Brand. In partnership with basic needs initiatives, we were also able to distribute and provide students with reusable and sustainable menstrual products like menstrual cups through the campus pantry. This was a great opportunity for us not only to collaborate and build relations with other orgs across campus, but also to work to combat period poverty on campus by providing students who menstruate with a reusable, reliable, and sustainable menstrual product of their own. We also branched out into the community, distributing free sustainable menstrual cups and discs at a free community event in collaboration with the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA). In partnership with a local organization and shelter that serves refugee women and femmes, we also hosted a Period Kit Packing night to help package reusable menstrual kits to donate to the shelter. In the kits, we included either a menstrual cup or disc alongside information zines on how to use the items that were created by one of our assistance directors. At tabling events, we would also promote and offer education on sustainable menstrual products.

Next Steps

Now that the semester is coming to a close, FORCE is prioritizing stocking up our inventory for the feminist pharmacy with sustainable menstrual products and sustainable hygiene products. This will include various sizes of tampons, pads, menstrual cups, menstrual discs, period underwear, and reusable cloth pads. These resources are vital on our campus to combat period poverty, and FORCE will continue providing them to students through our feminist pharmacy housed within the Women and Gender Student Space. This is especially important during finals season, as students who menstruate can have greater accessibility to these items on campus at no cost, allowing them to focus on their academics without the stress of finding menstrual products or worrying about affordability. We will also make multiple purchases over the upcoming weeks, and want to purchase more sustainable hygiene products like bar shampoo and conditioner, from approved sustainable brands. We will also purchase more menstrual products, as we are running low on sizes medium and large of sustainable period underwear, but we do want to stock up on hygiene items specifically, as we have prioritized the purchasing of menstrual products throughout the semester before hygiene items to ensure our budget was allocated to what we felt was most important to prioritize. We plan to make another bulk purchase of sustainable products for the feminist pharmacy within the upcoming week, due to hitting the spending limit for the WGSS P-Card.

Challenges Faced

A challenge we have faced has been shipping delays and issues in products arriving at the correct location on campus. A lot of the brands we are ordering from are smaller companies, so we believe that impacts the type of courier services they are using for delivery. We have begun leaving very detailed delivery instructions, which has helped, and also discovered that if the package does not make it to the center directly, it is likely delivered to the admin for the student union or the bookstore, who now alerts us if they receive a package for FORCE.

Media/Links