



Student volunteers pack bags of groceries for hungry students. CONNOR VEENSTRA/THE MONROE NEWS

Heck's Market addresses student food insecurity

Connor Veenstra

The Monroe News | USA TODAY NETWORK

MONROE — On Thursday, Feb. 20, Monroe County Community College officially re-opened the Heck's Market food pantry in Founder's Hall on campus.

The pantry, set up in 2021, was made to address food insecurity for students. Results from the Student Financial Wellness Survey in 2023 showed that 36% of MCCC students were food insecure. According to Dr. Joshua Myers, executive director of the Foundation at MCCC, if those students are worrying about food they won't be able to focus as much on studies and graduate with a usable degree.

"And that's what this is all about, it's not just about food security," he said. "It's about committing to a promise to a student for a better life in the future."

The pantry is named after an old market that used to be in downtown Monroe run by Frank Heck. His grandson, Charles Knabusch, Jr., let the college use the name and this allows them to, as Dr. Myers put it, carry on a "community legacy."

"What a great cause. what a great way to help stu-

what a great cause, what a great way to help students out, of all ages, and to just remember this little two-aisle meat market from downtown Monroe,” Knabusch said.

The pantry works through an online order system, where students can choose their needed groceries and then pull up to the building in their car when their order is ready. Then, volunteers that work with the pantry come out and load up their car with groceries. This not only increases speed, but discretion, as the students don’t need to worry about being seen and becoming self-conscious about their food inse-
