

# SING

## For Success at Garrett College

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A college degree is a requirement for a growing number of professions that can make a big difference in boosting lifetime earnings. But attending college is an expensive undertaking. Tuition, fees, books, supplies, parking, housing, food, insurance...the costs can seem overwhelming. And they continue to rise. According to the College Board, "Students not receiving financial aid can expect to face, on average, from \$450 to \$1,630 more than last year for this year's college expenses, depending on the type of college." While financial aid reduces the cost of tuition and fees, students whose budgets are still stretched thin often skimp on simple necessities – like food or warm clothing.

"It was evident to faculty and staff at Garrett College that a student's ability to focus on academic success was negatively affected by hunger and the stress of meeting expenses," says Ann Wellham, a former Dean of Marketing and Enrollment Management who is now retired after 33 years' service at the College. Working with other staff and faculty members who shared her concerns, Wellham was instrumental in developing a formal organization to help students find resources available within the College and local communities. The Students in Need Group, known as SING, now receives support through a dedicated fund initiated through the Garrett College Foundation. SING received a significant boost – \$5,000 – from a "Matthew 25: Neighbors in Need Grant" awarded to the Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Deep Creek Lake, thanks to the efforts of Barbara Hafer, a member of the Foundation and church parishioner, and Lisa Swift, the church's social ministry chair.

SING's biggest fundraiser, the 4th Annual SING Flea Market, is set for Saturday, June 6, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Garrett College Special Events Center. The public is invited and admission is free. Antiques and crafts have been some of the biggest sellers. Vendors pay fees that go directly to benefit SING in exchange for a sheltered venue to sell their treasures and trinkets. Non-profit organizations can receive one 10 foot x 12 foot space at no charge, and can purchase additional space if needed.



**This year's Flea Market will take place on Saturday, June 6, 2015, at the Garrett College Special Events Center.**

Garrett College students' response to SING has been positive. "Over 700 students were assisted by SING during the 2013-2014 school year," says Kym Newmann, executive associate to the Dean of Student Life. Throughout the academic year, SING sponsors PB&J Day every Wednesday, with sandwiches available during the lunch hour. During the last six weeks of each semester, students can patronize the SING Food Pantry, where they can select five items from a variety of items. An effort to add fresh fruits and vegetables is in the works. In October, SING sponsors a Winter Clothing Giveaway that allow students to select coats, hats, scarves and gloves to help them stay warm during the often harsh winters in Garrett County.

Individuals, organizations and businesses interested in supporting SING can receive a tax deduction for donated goods or funds. The satisfaction that comes from helping a student in need succeed is an added bonus.

**Flea Market contact information:**  
**Rachelle Davis, 301-387-3739, [www.garrettcollege.edu](http://www.garrettcollege.edu).**