COVID-19 Yancey Food Security Report 2

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Information provided by:
John Miller, Reconciliation House (3/30/2020)
Robert Wyatt, Yancey Feed-A-Child (3/30/2020)
Jackie Thomas, Yancey Community Center (3/30/2020)
Lynne Deyton, Yancey County Schools (3/30/2020)
Jewell Huskins, Charity House Mission (3/30/2020)
Michael Graf, TRACTOR (3/30/2020)

Yancey Community Food Security Response for the current week of March 30, 2020

**Rec House** (828-682-7251): Food pantry closed 3/30, open 4/1 to resume regular schedule. Pre-packed boxes distributed 9-12 and 1-3 PM at the food pantry on N. Main at the Higgins parking lot. Families are eligible to receive a box every 2 weeks. MY Neighbors, Healthcare providers, or community members more than welcomed to pick up food for folks in need.

**Yancey County School** (West 828-682-8150; East 828-682-2281): Prepares breakfast and lunch meals for all children under the age of 18 that are available for pick-up at East Yancey or Blue Ridge Elementary, or delivered Monday-Friday. Recipients include families from Head Start and other childcare agencies. Families can sign-up for food here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfCI3wcc9d2tWPOqvxRT3ef8Z2EEEMcF5nSbNJzWPji0WcZ-g/viewform

**Yancey Community Center** (828-682-6011): Shelf stable food boxes provided to enrolled Meals-on-Wheels recipients (waiting list). People over the age of 60 can call the Senior Center (828-682-6011) by 10:00 AM and request a meal that they then must pick-up at the Center starting at 11:30 AM.

**Yancey Feed-A-Child** (828-284-0316): Packing and providing over 600 bags of snacks and food for kids 3 times per week through YCS meal delivery.

**Charity House Mission** (828-678-0726): Distributes food boxes daily 10 am until 2 pm Monday-Friday.

**Dig In!** (828-536-0414): Dig In! hosts invite-only work days to expand spring planting for local vegetable production

**TRACTOR** (828-536-0126): Provides storage space and logistical support for food delivery and box packing

**Ingles and Sav-Mor:** Restrict Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 7-8 AM for at-risk shoppers

**Yancey community food volunteer form**: https://forms.gle/Cu9Pre4yQJvMyv83A
Food Security Gaps & Needs

- School systems are competing with restaurants for packaging supplies; US Foods is out of packaging supplies YCS uses to pack food. Lynne Deyton, School Nutrition Director, is looking for alternative sources; other suppliers are indicating packaging supplies are on backorder and/or experiencing delivery delays. YCS is seeing some food shortages.

- Financial donations needed to purchase food distributed by Rec House. Funding for food will come into jeopardy at the current rate of distribution. Donations can be made here: [https://www.rec-house.org/en/donate](https://www.rec-house.org/en/donate) or mailed to P.O Box 1147, Burnsville NC 28714

- Packing and delivery volunteers for Yancey Feed-A-Child. Contact Robert at 828-284-0316

- Cereal, Mac n Cheese for Yancey Feed-A-Child.
  Donations may be taken to Beverly-Hanks Realty in Burnsville and placed in the black enclosed trailer. Monetary donations can be made either by PayPal or mail a check to Feed-a-child at: 151 Laurel Heights Drive, Burnsville, NC 28714.

- Volunteer drivers for Meals-on-Wheels. Contact Teresa or Jackie at 828-682-6011

Activities reported for the week of March 16, 2020

Food Security impact the week of March 23, 2020 in Yancey County, NC
Rec House: 321 Families; 866 individuals received pre-packed food boxes (3/23-3/28) Yancey Feed-A-Child:
1850 Yancey kids received shelf-stable snacks and simple meals
Yancey Community Center: 273 home delivered meals; 103 congregate meals
Yancey County Schools: 551 children; breakfast and lunch - Monday through Friday
Dig In!: 14 volunteers contributed 35 hours in preparing and planting crops for food distribution

Community Food Collaborations
- TRACTOR, Rec House staff and volunteers broke down bulk pallets from Manna and helped pack approximately 360 family-size boxes of food that were given out on Saturday at Rec House.
  TRACTOR/Rec House also bagged three bulk bins of potatoes into 5-pound proportions and one bulk bin of sweet potatoes in 4-pound proportions (approximately 3,600 pounds total). TRACTOR made two delivery runs with the Dodge box truck to Rec House on Friday, and two on Saturday. We helped unload the prepared boxes as well as other food items at Rec House. These deliveries totaled 15 pallets of food.
- Yancey Food Security group met on 3/24/2020 with representatives from TRACTOR, PATH, Blue Ridge Partnership for Children, Rec House, GEAR-UP, Dig In!, and Yancey Cooperative Extension
- Dig In! coordinates with Blue Ridge Partnership for Children, Blue Ridge Healthy Families, and Head Start to identify and enroll families with emergency food needs in YCS food deliveries

Report prepared on 3/31/2020 by Kathleen Wood of Dig In! kwood@diginyancey.org