

ASHEVILLE POVERTY INITIATIVE IMPACT REPORT 2020



RELATIONSHIPS TRANSFORMATION JUSTICE

Asheville Poverty Initiative aims to build community and promote economic justice. Dismantling stereotypes, reducing fear, and empowering hope through telling stories across socio-economic difference.



12 BASKETS CAFE

COVID-19 Response:

The outbreak of COVID-19 has exemplified the continued and growing need for food justice and social cohesion in our community. At API, we tailored our programs to continue addressing these issues. While we were unable to gather around the table and share a meal together this year, there was still plenty of food to go around. Here are some of the things API was able to accomplish in 2020:

- 2 days a week of **to-go meals** and **grocery distribution** offered to the community.
- An estimated **5,000 prepared to-go meals** distributed this year.
- **Over 200 community members** volunteered with Asheville Poverty Initiative in 2020
- Collectively, **volunteers contributed over 9,000 hours** to the Cafe program
- Provided space for community partner **outreach and education** including Buncombe County Health and Human Services and Sunrise Peer Support.

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS FOR RESCUED FOOD AND SERVICES

Whole Foods on Merrimon	Warren Wilson College
Whole Foods South	UNCA
Earth Fare Westgate	Asheville Strong
Cheddars	Givens Estates
Longhorn Steakhouse	City Bakery
Outback Steakhouse	India Garden
No Evil Foods	Mela
Brooks Howell Home	Food Experience
Rainbow Community School	Smash Events



COVID RESPONSE PARTNERSHIP WITH ASHEVILLE CITY AND HOMEWARD BOUND:

Starting in March 2020, API began to **coordinate 700 meals a week** for houseless folks staying at Harrah's Cherokee Center by leveraging our strong relationships with local faith communities, restaurant owners, non-profits, and businesses. In May 2020, the city approved a contract between Homeward Bound and Red Roof Inn to continue providing emergency housing into 2021. Throughout the year, API has continued to coordinate **3 meals a week, 7 days a week, feeding 65+ houseless folks in emergency pandemic housing** at the Red Roof Inn.



COMMUNITY GROUPS THAT PROVIDED MEALS FOR FOLKS IN EMERGENCY HOUSING:

Church of the Advocate: Red Door
Haywood Street Congregation
Sarah Himmelheber at Warren Wilson College Social Work
Development
Black Mountain Academy
Food Connection
First Congregational United Church of Christ
Asheville Sandwich Company
Food Experience Catering
Baba Nahim

Chef Kyle McKnight, Your Place at Foothills West
Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church
First Baptist
Asheville Strong
Groce United Methodist Church
Rouleau Real Estate
Jubilee Community Church
Janna Hargadon and Friends
Little Cesars Patton Ave.
Rezaz

REALITIES OF POVERTY EDUCATION PROGRAM

With a sharp reduction in school community engagement due to the pandemic, our Realities of Poverty programming temporarily paused and transitioned to virtual platforms. **In 2020, 3 poverty Educators were paid a total of \$705 for their work with 4 college and community groups** including a semester-long collaboration with the Warren Wilson College Social Work department that has continued to flourish in 2021.

