



Asheville Poverty Initiative

Relationships • Transformation • Justice

2018 Impact Report



Mission Statement: Asheville Poverty Initiative aims to eradicate poverty in partnership with those on the margins and develop opportunities for education and advocacy. These opportunities will foster mutual relationships across socioeconomic boundaries. Simply by sitting and eating with someone you might otherwise never bump into: Stereotypes are dismantled. Fear is reduced. Hope is empowered.

12 Baskets Café

- Open **5 days a week** with additional Sunday suppers starting March 2019.
- Served **100-125 people per day** an estimated **20+ hotel-size pans of food** in a welcoming and supportive community.
- Distributed **100+lbs of rescued produce** each week.
- Provided **as-needed hot meals** to shelters, other non-profits, and community celebrations throughout Asheville.
- **Increased access to healthcare and housing resources** by providing meeting space for community partner outreach and social service case management in West Asheville.

“A place for love, community, respect, dignity. Fill your tummy and fill your soul.”

“It is a place where you can get to know people that are different from you.”

“They're proving that there is enough.”

Quotes from UNCA qualitative study at 12 Baskets Cafe “Fill Your Tummy Fill Your Soul” Nov. '18

Realities of Poverty Programming

- **Paid stipends totaling \$1,265 to 10 Poverty Scholars**, friends of API who live in poverty and share their experiences and wisdom through leading educational programs. Programs include group discussions and guided walks to places in downtown Asheville frequented by poor and homeless people. Stipend is at a “living wage” rate for the hours teaching.
- **Led cooperative learning opportunities** with 10 groups engaging more than 200 participants from elementary and high schools, colleges and universities, and youth and adult groups. This included a semester-long collaboration on a Service-Learning course with the Social Work Department of Warren Wilson College, with Poverty Scholars taking an active role in teaching.

Ashevillepovertyinitiative.org – 828.232.2149 – 789 Merrimon Ave, Asheville NC 28804

**12 Baskets Café is located at Kairos West Community Center,
610 Haywood Rd, beneath Firestorm Books.**

Partner Organizations for Rescued Food and Services

Core Providers:

Bean Werks Coffee & Tea
Brooks-Howell Home
Earth Fare Markets
Givens Estates

India Garden Restaurant
Mela Indian Restaurant
Morrison Healthcare/Mission Hospital
West End Bakery

Other Supporters:

Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen
Danny's Dumpster
Eden Out Organic Bulk Meals
Food Experience
Gypsy Queen Cuisine
Lord's Acre
Mamacitas Mexican Grill

No Evil Foods
OWL Bakery
Pizza Hut
Ruth's Chris Steak House
Sunny Point Café
Whole Foods Market

(We try to maintain an accurate list of organizations that donate food to 12 Baskets Café. If your organization has donated and is not on this list, please contact us so that we can update our records.)

Volunteers

- 45 regular, weekly volunteers served at 12 Baskets Café and picked up rescued food. Over 400 people volunteered for API at some time during 2018.
- 35 groups from schools, churches, colleges, universities, non-profits, and other community groups volunteered at the Café during 2018.
- Volunteers contributed over 15,000 hours to Asheville Poverty Initiative during 2018.

Community Engagement

Summer of 2018 presented challenges to the West Asheville community as a large number of people congregated in the area, camping in vacant spaces, straining social services and stressing the hospitality of 12 Baskets Café and the surrounding neighborhood. API staff facilitated dialogue among businesses, schools, churches, residents of West Asheville, and City officials to develop immediate, specific responses while seeking longer-term strategies to address the challenges of poverty and addiction. This work deepened collaborative relationships and increased awareness of the need for more public infrastructure: restrooms, green space, trash receptacles, and better access to community resources. These efforts are ongoing in 2019.

