

Rotarians Against Hunger in the News

Since 2010, Rotarians Against Hunger projects, involving hundreds of sponsors, donors and volunteers, have raised over \$150,000 in donations and packaged over one million meals. Once again, Rotary Clubs across Western North Carolina – in conjunction with Mission Healthcare Foundation, MANNA FoodBank, Reuter Family YMCA, and Kids Against Hunger – have joined together and set lofty and important goals:

- Raise at least \$50,000 to purchase dried meal ingredients
- Package those food supplies into at 215,000 meals
- Educate our communities about the food insecurity challenge our neighbors face

Help us spread the word!

Please [Download](#) our press release and share it to your friends, neighbors, organizations you belong to, colleagues at work, or church members !! A sample of media coverage of past Rotarians Against Hunger projects.

Rotary club to host meal packaging event March 22, Mountain XPress

By: Carrie Eidson

Join in the fight against hunger in Western North Carolina and participate in the fifth Annual Rotarians Against Hunger (RAH) meal packaging event on March 22, 2014 at the Reuter Family Branch of the YMCA in Biltmore Park. The goal is to package 200,000 + meals of fortified macaroni and cheese dinners that will be distributed throughout Western North Carolina to families in need.

A meal packaging event is a fun, family friendly and immensely rewarding experience where people - individuals, families, church groups, civic organizations and businesses - come together and package nutritious meals to help feed our neighbors.

With the assistance of community partners Mission Healthcare Foundation, MANNA FoodBank, Reuter YMCA and Seed Programs International, Rotary seeks to address the increasingly critical need for food among people in WNC and overseas. The meal packaging event is an effort to help locally and RAH is raising \$50,000 to make it happen. Sponsors of the event are Signarama and Thermo Fisher Scientific.

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Samantha and Sara, both 10 years of age, attend a local middle school in the Asheville, North Carolina area. Since meeting at the beginning of the semester, they have become fast friends. Their likes and dislikes seem to reflect a mirror image of each other. Samantha loves Justin Bieber but not any more than Sara. Both young ladies love school and enjoy helping each other with homework assignments. This energetic duo maintains a 3.8 GPA

and are members of their school's debate team. Listening to their favorite music is just one of their pleasurable pastimes. Some of their most special moments occur on the school bus ride home where they discuss the events of the school day. Sadly, this is where the similarities end.

Samantha is the first to be dropped off in her middle-class neighborhood. Walking in the door of her modest home, the first words out of her mouth are, "Hi Mom. What's for dinner?" When Sara exits her bus at the neighborhood drop-off, a neatly manicured mobile home park, she walks to her residence, enters, not uttering a word. No one else is home. Sara has no idea what's for dinner. In fact, she is not sure if there will be dinner.

Unfortunately, this is a common occurrence in Western North Carolina. There are approximately 41,000 children who are deprived of enjoying food on a regular basis. The schools provide meals to these needy, food insecure children on school days thanks to government subsidies and grants. But what happens when the weekend comes? Some of these children may not see a meal until Monday morning rolls around.

Each Friday during the school year, the MANNA Packs Program sends a 4-5 pound bag of food home to assist families, like Sara's, to get them through the weekend. In fact, MANNA services 16 counties and 138 schools.

There are also just under 10,000 elders that are food-deprived in the WNC area. Some of them have resorted to eating pet food. Others deprive themselves of their medication in order to pacify their hunger.

The Rotary Clubs in Western North Carolina are trying to do something about this embarrassing problem. The 4th Annual Rotarians Against Hunger Campaign will occur on Saturday, March 22, 2014. In the past, Rotary Club of Asheville, partnered by other Rotary Clubs in WNC, including Mission Healthcare Foundation, Kids Against Hunger, Mission Children's Hospital Chapter, have raised over \$100,000.00 in donations and have packaged over 700,000 meals. MANNA handled the distribution of these meals.

For the 2014 Rotarians Against Hunger event, the goal is to raise \$50,000 from corporations, non-profits and individual donations. This money will pay for the necessary ingredients needed to package up to 250,000 meals. If you want to help out monetarily for this very worthy cause, your donation can be sent to Mission Healthcare Foundation.

But wait! How will this be done? Volunteers will be needed to handle the packaging of the dry foods. There will be three shifts, four hours each, starting at 8:00 a.m., in order to accomplish this task. Ask anyone who was there last year—it was FUN. The public is being asked to help make this happen. For last year's packaging event, we had a total of 700 volunteers. These people came from all walks of life. There were a lot of young people involved—scout groups, church organizations and high schoolers. Children from the grammar schools were well represented. What better way to spend a Saturday morning or afternoon, joining with neighbors, family and friends, even making new friends. To volunteer for this special even, please visit: www.RotariansAgainstHunger.org

This important event will be held at the Reuter Family YMCA on March 22, 2014 with the help of hundreds of volunteers. Only you can make this happen. Contributions for the Rotarians Against Hunger Project are desperately needed. Please make out your tax-deductible check to Mission Healthcare Foundation and mail it to:

Mission Healthcare Foundation
Attn: Rotarians Against Hunger
890 Hendersonville Road, Suite 300
Asheville, NC 28803

More Press

Biltmore Beacon News (March 11, 2011)

"Twenty-five cents buys a meal for somebody who can't afford one and nine Western North Carolina Rotary clubs, partnering with MANNA FoodBank, will package those meals. It takes 900 volunteers to get this done", said Rotarian Bill Bass who has been involved since the start."

Black Mountain News (March 2011)

"The goal of the project is to purchase meals for those in need. Seventy percent of the proceeds will go to Manna Food Bank with the remaining 30 percent going to aid those [overseas]. Meals are dehydrated and high in protein and nutrition. Funds may be donated to the project at www.rotariansagainsthunger.org. Volunteers are needed to help pack the food [and] there are several different time slots available for volunteers."

Mountain Express (February 2012)

"WNC takes on hunger! There is a tremendous need for food in Western North Carolina. And [WNC] Rotary clubs are helping to fill it."

Asheville Citizen-Times (March 30, 2011)

"Asheville, NC – Plans for the Rotarians Against Hunger (RAH) Third Annual Food Packaging Event is well underway with strong commitments from Thermo Fisher Scientific and Asheville-based artist Jonas Gerard. The Third Annual RAH will take place April 28, 2012, when 50,000 bags (enough food for 300,000 meals) will be packaged, boxed and readied for distribution throughout Western North Carolina and internationally to meet pressing needs. In Western North Carolina, 1 in 6 individuals are food insecure, and of these, 40,000 are children.

RAH, is raising \$45,000 to provide for purchasing and packaging the food. In partnership with Mission Children's Hospital, Kids Against Hunger and MANNA FoodBank, Rotary seeks to address the increasingly critical need for food among our WNC neighbors and partner in international Rotary efforts to meet critical health and food security demands overseas.

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WNC Women (April 2012)

Feeding Hunger

By: Sandi Krecioch

Many of us are returning to our roots and cultivating home and community gardens. Food abounds with fresh vegetables, herbs, spices. We shop weekly, sometimes daily, at the grocery store to pick up food, health, and beauty items. Food shopping has even become a social event for many of us clustered in the middle of store aisles conversing and catching up on gossip. In your home, you may hear, "Hey, I'm going to the grocery store. Do you need anything?" Common everyday words, right? For a good percentage of the population in Western North Carolina, these words, let alone shopping, are not the norm. They don't have the luxury of what seems common place to most of us. They aren't going to grocery stores and picking up their favorite items. These people are hungry—I mean really hungry—and don't know where their next meal is coming from. They receive their food from food pantries, soup kitchens, or shelters served by a food bank. Many hungry children don't eat a decent meal until they get to school.

[more...](#)

WNC Women (April 2013)

Living On Empty

By Sandi Krecioch

The ordinary household is extremely busy these days. We sprint to and from appointments and work, sometimes barely speaking to one another. Maybe we snatch an energy bar while flying out the door. Perhaps it's a piece of fruit or a muffin. Whatever the selection, it's always there for our grabbing as we scurry about. Sometimes we sit down with the entire family and have a nutritious meal while sharing the day's activities with one another. Sitting around the table, our senses take in the aromas of the victuals to be consumed. Once we're done eating, we usually sit back—pleasantly full. Or most of the time—overly full.

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