



The Hancock County Food Drive is an annual month-long food collection and fundraising project that supports food pantries, free meal programs, and school backpack food programs across Hancock County. With the help of volunteers, these organizations work together to raise funds and collect food, providing critical assistance to Mainers at a time when food insecurity rates are at their highest.

Nearly one in 10 Maine households goes without suitably nutritious food, making Maine the most food insecure state in New England (Maine Center for Economic Policy). Childhood food insecurity rates in our region are even higher: one in five children in Hancock County live in food insecure households (Feeding America). By building resources for food assistance programs, the Food Drive helps to ensure that all people in our community have access to nutritious, affordable food.

In 2021, the Food Drive collected 4,500 food items and raised \$37,203 for 19 food security organizations that collectively serve thousands of community members each month. **This year, we aim to raise \$40,000.**

To meet our goal, a series of fundraising and food collection events will take place throughout the month of April, including a county-wide Kick-Off Collection Event on April 2nd, a month-long Read-A-Thon, and a Miles for Meal challenge in mid-April.

The Food Drive Benefits the Following Hancock County Organizations:

Bar Harbor Food Pantry, Bread of Life Food Pantry, Common Good Soup Kitchen, Community Compass, Emmaus Homeless Shelter, Everybody Eats! Community Meal, Hancock Grammar School Backpack Program, Healthy Island Project, H.O.M.E. Co-op, Lifeline Food Pantry, Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry, The Magic Food Bus, MDI BackPack Program, Open Table MDI, RSU 25 Food Pantry, Simmering Pot Community Meal, Weekends with EE! BackPack Program, The Welcome Table, What's for Suppah? Food Pantry.

The Food Drive is organized by the Hancock County Food Security Network, Healthy Acadia, United Way of Eastern Maine, and University of Maine Cooperative Extension, with generous support from Maine Community Foundation, Star 97.7, and Maine Coast Mall.

**TO LEARN MORE, VISIT WWW.HCFOODDRIVE.ORG
QUESTIONS? CONTACT RACHEL EMUS AT RACHEL@HEALTHYACADIA.ORG**