



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 programs across Hancock County. Every spring, these organizations work together to raise funds and collect food, providing critical assistance to Mainers at a time of year when food insecurity rates are at their highest.

More than one in 10 Maine households goes without suitably nutritious food, making Maine the most food insecure state in New England. Childhood food insecurity rates in our region are even higher: more than one in six children in Hancock County live in food insecure households. 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.

Last year, the Food Drive collected over 4,000 food items and raised \$47,452 for 17 food security organizations that collectively serve thousands of community members each month. **This year, we aim to raise \$50,000.**

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 1st, a month-long Read-A-Thon, and a Miles for Meals challenge in mid-April.

100% of the Proceeds Benefit the Following 18 Hancock County Organizations:

Bar Harbor Food Pantry, Bread of Life Food Pantry, Common Good Soup Kitchen, Community Compass, Emmaus Center, Everybody Eats, Hancock Grammar School Backpack Program, Healthy Island Project, Healthy Peninsula, HOME Co-op, Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry, MDI Backpack Program, Open Table MDI, RSU 25 Food Pantry, Schoodic Food Pantry, Simmering Pot, Sumner Memorial Food Pantry, The Welcome Table, and What's For Suppa? 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**

Sources: Maine Center for Economic Policy and Feeding America.