



## Ashe County

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### COVID-19 is Bringing Out the Good in Ashe County

JEFFERSON, NC-

Like nearly every corner of the country, Ashe County is enduring the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The good news is that we are seeing the bright lights of Ashe County shine even brighter in these difficult times. Residents are coming together to help each other and local charitable organizations, churches, not-for-profit organizations and governmental agencies are finding a way to work together to keep everybody in Ashe County fed.

With large numbers of our residents out of work as a result of this public health crisis, many of whom may have never struggled before with food insecurities, our local charitable organizations are finding that they're feeding more people than ever, and they're seeing new faces show up for these food distributions.



Recently, Musicians Mission of Mercy, a local organization, picked up 4400lbs of meat, including Easter hams, for distribution to children and their families throughout Ashe County. Musicians Mission of Mercy is also expecting two semi-truck loads of food and other life essentials to come into Ashe County by the end of April and of which the Ashe Sharing Center and First Baptist Church of West Jefferson are covering the transportation cost.



Elsewhere throughout Ashe County, Ashe Really Cares, Jefferson United Methodist Church, the Salvation Army, the Ashe Sharing Center and Ashe Outreach Ministries continue their work around the clock, mostly with volunteers, and have seen a significant increase in their food distributions.

Because all of these organizations have seen a significant increase in need, they're in need of monetary donations. If you're able to donate, please contact one of the organizations below. If you're in

need of food assistance, please also reach out to one of the organizations listed.

**Ashe County Sharing Center, (336) 846-7019**, is a food pantry located in Jefferson, NC where residents in-need can pick up food once per month.

**Ashe Outreach Ministries, (336) 385-1314**, is located in Creston, NC and allows residents to pick up food once per month from their pantry on Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursday.



**Ashe Really Cares (336) 846-5234**, is a Baptist ministry located in West Jefferson that provides food to those in need.

**Jefferson United Methodist Church, (336) 846-9512**, is located in Jefferson, NC and has resources available on Tuesdays from 9am to Noon and every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday from 6pm to 7pm.

**Ashe County Department of Social Services, (336) 846-5719**, is located in Jefferson, NC inside the new courthouse and, among many other services, administers the Federal **Food and Nutrition Services** program (formerly called Food Stamps). Residents with internet access also can find information about these services through Ashe DSS's website by locating the ePASS page. ePass is a quick and easy way for individuals and families to learn about and apply for available benefits and services.

“We know that in the coming weeks, many in our community may face food shortages for the first time in their lives,” said Adam Stumb, Ashe County Manager. “People who have never had to reach out for help before are finding the help they need in a network of food distribution organizations and programs that are bound together through kindness and charity.”

In addition to the food resources listed above, Ashe County Schools is continuing to provide free meals for all children 18 years old and under at the following locations:

**Blue Ridge Elementary:**

"Grab-n-Go" Food Distribution - 5778 NC Highway 88 W Warrensville, NC 28693 - Monday-Friday 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

– Call 336-384-4500 with any questions.

**Mountain View Elementary:**

"Grab-n-Go" Food Distribution - 2789 NC Highway 221 N Jefferson, NC 28640 - Monday-Friday 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

– Call 336-982-4200 with any questions.

**Westwood Elementary:**

"Grab-n-Go' Food Distribution - 4083 US Highway  
221 S West Jefferson, NC 28694 - Monday-Friday  
11:00 AM to 1:00 PM  
– Call 336-877-2921 with any questions.

**Ashe County High School Food Pantry:**

184 Campus Drive West Jefferson, NC 28694 -  
Monday-Friday 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM by  
appointment only – Call 336-846-2400 with any  
questions.



“What has always made Ashe County a special place is the people,” said Travis Birdsell, County Extension Director. “Now we are facing unprecedented challenges, but we will get through this together. Our priority is to meet our neighbor’s needs and keep everyone safe in the process by supporting the organizations that have been here helping day in and day out. Kindness and generosity are the hope that everyone needs right now and in the coming weeks.”

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