

COMMUNITY ACTION

"Boots on the Ground in all 100 NC Counties."

Fulfilling the Promise in the Midst of COVID-19

by Sharon C. Goodson

The promise of community action fuels the hearts and minds of community action leaders in North Carolina and across the nation.

As COVID-19 swept across the state, community action agencies re-assessed the needs of families and communities and revamped how programs and services would be provided. Services to low-income families, children, the elderly, veterans and returning citizens shifted to virtual, via teleconferencing, tele-case management, web-based platforms, as well as, drive-thru, drop box and other systems to effectively and efficiently serve families while practice social distancing.

As families face poverty, heightened unemployment, food insecurity, lack of health benefits, homelessness and the like, they will not face it alone. Community action was built to serve and to advocate for vulnerable populations. What we've done for the past 55 years is needed now more than ever during this unprecedented pandemic and beyond. As the only statewide poverty fighting network, we must be safe, flexible, swift and more innovative than ever.

As we adjust to the "new norm," the promise and mission of community action remains the same.



Head Start staff at Southeastern Community and Family Services, Inc. prepare care packages for distribution to families. Below - A participant picks up a meal through a drive thru at Mountain Projects, Inc.





Community Action on the Front Lines and in the News



Michael McCathern fired up his grill to help the group from City Church cook and prepare 900 hot dogs that were given to area residents in a drive through system in front of the Gaston Community Action office on Rankin Avenue in Gastonia. (Photo by John Clarke, Gaston Gazette)

Action Pathways, Inc.

Action Pathway's Second Harvest Food Bank is working tirelessly to distribute food to vulnerable families. Several foundations have contributed to the organization as communities face COVID-19. Click the links below to read the full article:

- [Action Pathways Second Harvest Food Bank of Southeast NC Receives \\$28,000 from the Duke Energy Foundation to Address Hunger Relief During COVID19 Crisis](#)
- [Action Pathways Steps Up to Host Local Drive-Thru Food Drive](#)
- [Action Pathways Second Harvest Food Bank Receives Donations from Food Lion Feeds Charitable Foundation](#)
- [Action Pathways Second Harvest Food Bank of Southeast NC Receives \\$213,722 Grant from the Walmart Foundation to Help People Facing Hunger in Seven Counties Access Fresh Produce](#)

Mountain Projects, Inc.

Mountain Projects is distributing meals and food boxes to address the needs of families in Haywood and Jackson Counties. Click the link below to read the full article:

- [Mountain Projects Provides Meals, Food Boxes](#)

\$4.5 Million in Funding Awarded for Repairs, Accessibility for Low-income Citizens

Choanoke Area Development Association, Inc., Four Square Community Action, Inc. and Mountain Projects, Inc. are three of the 37 organizations and nonprofits recently awarded Urgent Repair Program funds by the NC Housing Finance Agency. Click the link below to read the full article:

- [\\$4.5 Million in Funding Awarded for Repairs, Accessibility Modifications for Low-Income Citizens](#)

NC Housing Finance Agency Awards \$8 Million for Housing Rehab in 30 Counties

Choanoke Area Development Association, Inc., Coastal Community Action, Inc., Four Square Community Action, Inc. and Sandhills Community Action, Inc. will receive funding to assist vulnerable populations for the Essential Single-Family Rehabilitation Loan Pool. Click here to read the full article:

- [NC Housing Finance Agency Awards \\$8 Million for Housing Rehab in 30 Counties](#)



Staff at WAGES, Inc. prepare care packages for distribution to vulnerable families in Wayne County. (Photo by WAGES, Inc.)

Pandemic prompts NCCARE360 to Accelerate Inclusion of More Counties

by Neil Cotiauxp

The NCCARE360 network, which connects people with immediate needs like housing, food and health care, is bringing more counties on board ahead of schedule. Click the link below to learn more:

- [Pandemic prompts NCCARE360 to Accelerate Inclusion of More Counties](#)



Families gather needed items at Food Pantry. (Photo by Action Pathways)

Senior Center, WAGES Continue Programs

WAGES, Inc. is on the frontlines providing meals to senior citizens in Wayne County in the midst of COVID-19. Click below to read the full article:

- [Senior Center, WAGES Continue Programs](#)



NEW (Nash/Edgecombe/Wilson) Reentry staff providing mobile food distribution in Wilson County.

The Promise of Community Action

Community action changes peoples lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people, help themselves and each other.