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**DCPC's Social Justice Committee** is concerned about the impact of the government shutdown and other current policies that will impact vulnerable neighbors.

SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) Benefits are at risk of being paused or cut beginning November 1<sup>st</sup>. In addition, millions are at risk of losing healthcare benefits due to unaffordable premiums. Here are a few things you can do to make a difference.

- 1) Make a donation to the local food pantry (NourishUp!) at the Ada Jenkins Center, to Hearts and Hands Food Pantry, to Angels and Sparrows, or to FeedNC. These partners are on the front lines and are working to provide nutritious food to neighbors when they cannot afford to purchase their own food.
- 2) Consider supporting the Cook Community Clinic <https://cookcommunityclinic.org/>. It is the only free medical and dental clinic in the Lake Norman Region.
- 3) Bring non-perishable food items to the Ada Jenkins Center or to DCPC any Sunday and we will get those to the NourishUp! Food Pantry at the Ada Jenkins Center.
- 4) Reach out and schedule a time to volunteer with one of these partners.

*Tina Postel, the CEO of NourishUp! Writes, "Whether it is through a donation, hosting a healthy food drive, or advocating for policies that protect our most vulnerable, your support matters. And if you really want to feel the impact – come volunteer. See the smiles. Hear the stories. Feel the joy. Because feeding people feels good."*

- 5) Write to your elected officials and ask them to encourage Congress to access Contingency Funds that are available to fund SNAP. Ask them to work to end the Government Shutdown. Here is some language that you might use which comes from the NC Food System Advocacy Coalition:

Dear member of Congress:

Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins recently announced that the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is about to run out of money. The good news is that the USDA has the authority to use contingency and carryover funds to keep SNAP running through November. However, unless they act quickly, millions of hard-working families will go hungry in November—and face bare Thanksgiving tables. We urge you to press the USDA to use every available mechanism, including utilizing its contingency reserves, to keep SNAP funded and prevent widespread hunger in November.

Any delay in benefits—especially during this time of rising grocery prices—would harm the over 40 million people who participate in SNAP, including 16 million children, 8 million older adults, and 4 million

people with disabilities. Ensuring continued SNAP funding in November would mean more ability to make ends meet and buy essential food items, which in turn lifts businesses and the economy. Each dollar in federally funded SNAP benefits generates between \$1.50 and \$1.80 in economic activity—boosting farmers, retailers, and the economy.

Please press the USDA to act quickly to ensure families can put food on the table in November and enjoy a Thanksgiving meal.

Sincerely,

(Your Name)

To find contact information you can use this website: <https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials>