

NEWS RELEASE

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Combatting Food Insecurity in Montgomery County, Apex Home Loans Launches Mortgages for Meals

ROCKVILLE, Maryland — With food insecurity in Montgomery County projected to have grown over 60% from a few years ago; Apex Home Loans is partnering with Manna Food Center through a new *Mortgages for Meals* Program. As of January 2021, for every loan closed by a corporate branch at Apex Home Loans, the firm makes a monetary donation that can help feed up to five families locally.

“It hurts to see so many young children in our home county struggling with food insecurity,” says Craig Strent, CEO of Apex Home Loans. “Mortgages for Meals is a new way we can support children as their families go through the difficulties posed by the pandemic.”

Despite ranking as the 17th wealthiest county in the US, Montgomery County faces notable food insecurity. 35 percent of public-school students qualify for free or reduced cost meals during the school week. Manna Food Center, which typically serves approximately 32,000 individuals per year, experienced a 40 percent boost in demand over the summer, while food bank Nourish Now has seen distribution increase to more than six times its volume pre-pandemic.

Beyond *Mortgages for Meals*, Apex has participated in Manna Food Center’s Smart Sacks program. The initiative allows the firm to provide food-insecure students with healthy meals on weekends, bridging the gap between on-site lunches. Due to COVID-19, the Smart Sacks program was adapted and now distributes twice the amount of food to school-aged children and their families. *Mortgages for Meals* facilitates this effort.

To learn more about food insecurity in Montgomery County, read [A time to give](#) in Bethesda magazine.

About Apex in Action

Apex in Action was created to support the organizations and causes Apex employees value by providing the team with opportunities for giving and volunteering. Taking up the mantra, “doing well by doing good,” the Apex team contributes thousands of volunteer hours annually. Whether the firm is collecting food, books, school supplies, or coats, their drives have helped combat homelessness, hunger, underserved students, and workforce inequality. In recent

years, *Washington Business Journal* and the Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce have heralded *Apex in Action*. Honors the company has received include the Dick Price Community Service Award and recurring rankings on *Washington Business Journal's* Corporate Philanthropy list.

About Apex Home Loans

Apex Home Loans, Inc. is a regional independent mortgage banking firm headquartered in Montgomery County, MD. Apex focuses on delivering superior customer experiences and takes pride in helping people achieve their dream of owning a home. We're like you: fellow homeowners, active community members, and family-focused individuals. Apex selects custom financing solutions for homebuyers and homeowners—all while retaining complete in-house control over the processing and underwriting of their loans. Visit apexhomeloans.com to learn more.