



## Fact Sheet

# Rotarians Against Hunger 2017

### Rotarians Against Hunger (RAH) Fighting Hunger at Home

- Rotary Clubs across WNC have been working together to fighting hunger through RAH since 2010.
- The Rotary Club of Asheville, the Asheville Breakfast Rotary Club, and The Rotary Club of Asheville South provide major coordination and significant financial support for the food packaging event.
- Rotary Clubs across the region (Sylva, Biltmore, Hendersonville, Black Mountain, Hendersonville Four Seasons, and Madison County) make significant contributions of cash and volunteers.
- The food insecurity problem is widespread and getting worse in our area.
- RAH has distributed over 1.9 million meals in WNC and overseas since RAH began in 2010.
- RAH needs to raise \$65,000 this year to purchase food ingredients to make 300,000+ fortified macaroni and cheese meals
  - Make a donation at: [www.rotariansagainsthunger.org/makeADonation.php](http://www.rotariansagainsthunger.org/makeADonation.php)
- RAH is an all-volunteer effort with no funding for staffing
- RAH needs over 700 volunteers (businesses, families, schools, churches, civic organizations and individuals) to pack food at the annual meal packaging event
  - **Date:** April 29, 2017
  - **Location:** YMCA Reuter Family Center, 3 Town Square Blvd, Biltmore Park
  - **Time:** Sign up to volunteer at: [www.rotariansagainsthunger.org/helpPackMeals.php](http://www.rotariansagainsthunger.org/helpPackMeals.php)
    - **Set up (SU):** At the Reuter YMCA from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM on Friday April 28, 2017
    - **First packing shift (1<sup>st</sup>):** from 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM,
    - **Second packing shift (2<sup>nd</sup>):** from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM,
    - **Third packing shift (3<sup>rd</sup>):** from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM (volunteers are particularly needed here)
    - **Take down & cleanup (CU):** from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. We need help to take down and clean up the packaging area. Strong hands and backs are needed and greatly appreciated!
- Partners include **MANNA Foodbank**, who will distribute the food packages in WNC, the **Reuter Family YMCA**, who provides space for the RAH food packing event, and **Seed Programs International**, who will send vegetable seed packets overseas to help address global hunger, and **The Rotary Club of Asheville South Foundation** which is a 501c3 organization that helps manage all donations.
- Major 2016 sponsors included **Thermo Fisher Scientific, Express Employment, Signarama, Club Car and Wilsonart.**

## Hunger in North Carolina and WNC

- In **North Carolina** in 2015, 17.1% of residents live with food insecurity which is higher than that national average of 16.4%. Nationally, North Carolina ranks 11th in the nation in childhood food insecurity with 26.7% of children struggling to have access to 3 square meals a day.
- Within the 16 county area served by MANNA FoodBank, the food bank and its partner agencies continue to serve many clients facing various challenges providing food for 13,200 unique clients in a typical week and 107,600 are served annually.
- **Age:** Among all clients, 24 percent are children under age 18 and 18 percent are seniors age 60 and older.
- **Income and Poverty:** An estimated 60 percent of client households have an income of \$10,000 or less; 22 percent have annual incomes of \$10,001 to \$20,000.
- **Health:** An estimated 31 percent of households report at least one member with diabetes; 55 percent of households report at least one member with high blood pressure. Additionally, 62 percent of households reported having unpaid medical bills.
- **Education:** An estimated 67 percent of all clients have attained a high school degree or General Equivalency Diploma (GED) or more, and an estimated 26 percent of all clients have post-high school education (including license or certification, some college, or a four-year degree).
- **Coping Strategies:** When faced with the threat of food insecurity, individuals are forced to engage in various coping strategies. Clients reported the following: 88% purchased inexpensive, unhealthy foods; 66% ate food past the expiration date; 62% purchased food in dented or damaged packages, 48% received help from family or friends, 46% sold or pawned personal property, 41% watered down food or drinks.
- **Employment:** An estimated 56 percent of households have a household member who had worked for pay in the last 12 months; in 64 percent of client households, the most-employed person from the past 12 months is currently out of work.

## Worldwide Hunger

- 842 million people in the world do not have enough to eat (defined as chronically facing medically-recognizable malnutrition). This number has fallen by 17 percent since 1990.
- 98.2% of the hungry (by the above definition) live in the developing world.
- One in four of the world's children suffer from stunted growth; 80% of those stunted children live in just 20 countries.
- 2.6 million children die of hunger-related causes each year.
- The majority of hungry people in the world are farmers by trade, but often lack the resources needed to even grow their own food.
- Poverty is the root cause of hunger. 2.8 billion people live on less than \$2 per day. 80% live on less than \$10 per day.

## **RAH Fighting Hunger Abroad through Seed Programs International (SPI)**

- SPI is a North Carolina-based 501c3 organization since 1999.
- SPI has distributed more than 14 million packets of seed to 75 countries.
- SPI's mission is to provide good quality vegetable seeds, expertise, and training materials to humanitarian organizations working around the world to alleviate hunger and poverty.
- Seeds provided are non-GMO and appropriate to local conditions.
- SPI provided 400,000 packets of vegetable seed in 2016, to 5 projects in almost 30 countries.
  
- 2016 Rotarians Against Hunger contributions provided enough seed to grow:
  - o Almost 1000 gardens
  - o More than 72,000 pounds of vegetables, even assuming ¼ of good US yield due to challenging conditions.
  - o More than 300,000 vegetable servings.
  
- RAH 2015 and 2016 contributions launched projects to:
  - o Join with the Rotary Club of Gilgil, Kenya in support of gardening by women's cooperatives while also teaching seed saving;
  - o Support displaced farmers' need for new crops to counter malnutrition in Honduras;
  - o Teach gardening skills to youth at a Mayan boarding school in Guatemala and give them seeds to bring home to their villages;
  - o Partner with Rotary and 4-H in Jamaica where more than 100 school gardens were planted.

**[www.rotariansagainsthunger.org](http://www.rotariansagainsthunger.org)**