



BALLANTYNE FAMILIES  
• HELPING NEIGHBORS IN NEED •

# 2025–2026 IMPACT REPORT

“

*Words cannot express my heartfelt gratitude for the help you have given me and my family. To know my kids will not have to worry about how they will eat is a true blessing.*

– Ballantyne Family  
Support Recipient

*Serving the Ballantyne Community since 2020*

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The 2025-2026 school year was the most impactful in our organization's six year history! Last fall, our families faced government funding cuts and economic instability that increased the need for support in the Ballantyne community. The number of families that we served increased by 224%, and we saw weekly shopping requests from our Food & Hygiene Pantry more than triple last year.

We have been blessed that when our community needs us, we are able to respond. We are proud of the following highlights from this past school year:

- **Added hygiene products that are not covered by SNAP benefits to the pantry**, including toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, and feminine hygiene pads.
- **Held our first ever Snack Drive during Hunger Action Month** in September to stock school counselor's offices with healthy snacks for students who are hungry during the school day.
- **Exceeded our fundraising goals for all our seasonal giving campaigns**, which allowed us to have a greater impact than ever before by providing gift cards and food to 112 families for Thanksgiving, 120 for Winter holidays, 104 for Spring Break and 112 families for Summer.
- **Celebrated Counselors and Social Worker Appreciation Weeks** by honoring the staff at the schools we serve with a gift basket filled with flowers, baked goods and sponsor gift cards.
- **Translated our Resource Guide into Russian**. The guide is now available on our web site in English, Spanish, and Russian.

Thank you to our generous donors and corporate sponsors, who are truly making an impact throughout the Ballantyne community.

**Heather McAfee**

Executive Director & Founder



“

*Ballantyne Families Helping Neighbors in Need is an invaluable partner to our school community. Their support reduces stress for families, restores dignity, and helps students feel seen, supported, and ready to learn.*

**Valerie Johnson**

School Counselor and  
Founding Board Member





## OUR MISSION

We provide food assistance to families who attend or work in one of the 12 Ballantyne area public schools through seasonal giving events and a Food & Hygiene pantry. Our mission is to bring people together – to inspire generosity, build lasting connections, and empower the community to care for one another with dignity, compassion, and love.

## WHY THIS MATTERS



1 in 5 students in the Ballantyne community face food insecurity



Students who are well-fed are more likely to complete assignments, participate in class, and score better on tests.



Nearly 50% of Charlotte-Mecklenburg school students qualify for free or reduced meals



Food insecurity and financial hardship exist in every community – even those known for prosperity.



Hunger negatively impacts concentration, memory, and problem-solving skills.



SNAP benefits do not cover hygiene items

## WHAT WE DO

Our work falls into two categories:

### Seasonal Food Support Givings

We give support while kids aren't at school during Thanksgiving, Winter Holidays, Spring Break and Summer by providing bags of food, grocery gift cards, encouraging notes from the community and a resource guide containing other local social services.



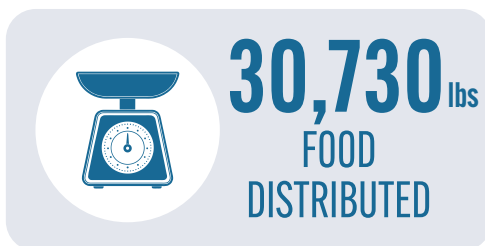
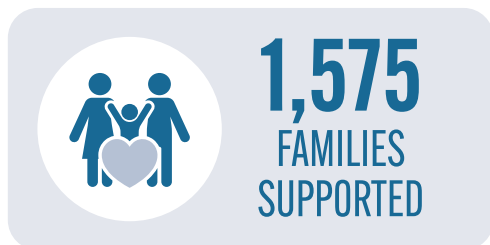
### Food & Hygiene Pantry

- Located at Community House Middle School, the pantry is stocked with non-perishable food and in-demand hygiene items.
- Families identified by school counselors and social workers may place weekly pantry orders during the school year.
- The average value of each pantry shop is \$87.50.

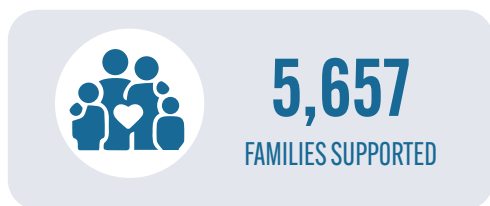


# COMMUNITY IMPACT: 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

Through the unbelievable support of our community, we have provided the following food support to our neighbors in need.



## IMPACT SINCE 2020



### COMMUNITY IMPACT SUMMARY

| IMPACT                                                                                                            | 2025–2026<br>SCHOOL YEAR | SINCE 2020<br>(INCEPTION) |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
|  Families Supported            | 1,575                    | 5,657                     |
|  People Supported              | 6,390                    | 22,693                    |
|  Pantry Requests               | 1,126                    | 2,235                     |
|  Bags of Food Given            | 3,073                    | 8,871                     |
|  Pounds of Food Given          | 30,730                   | 88,705                    |
|  Cash Value of Groceries       | \$107,555                | \$310,468                 |
|  Cash Value of Gift Cards      | \$178,700                | \$630,770                 |
|  <b>TOTAL CASH VALUE GIVEN</b> | <b>\$286,255</b>         | <b>\$941,238</b>          |



### 12 SCHOOLS *We Support!*

SERVING STUDENTS ACROSS  
THE BALLANTYNE AREA

- 1 Ardrey Kell High School
- 2 Ballantyne Elementary School
- 3 Ballantyne Ridge High School
- 4 Community House Middle School
- 5 Cato Ridge Middle School
- 6 Elon Park Elementary School
- 7 Endhaven Elementary School
- 8 Hawk Ridge Elementary School
- 9 Jay M. Robinson Middle School
- 10 Knights View Elementary School
- 11 Polo Ridge Elementary School
- 12 Rea Farms STEAM Academy



# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

*Together we make a difference.*

## VOLUNTEERS

We provide an outlet for adults and students in the community who want to volunteer and support their neighbors in need.

### TASKS INCLUDE:

- Picking, packing, and delivering pantry orders
- Re-stocking pantry shelves
- Organizing food and hygiene drives
- Writing thousands of encouraging notes that are included with every pantry order and seasonal gift
- Helping to manage operations of the organization



This year our volunteers worked

**350+ HOURS**

in the Food & Hygiene Pantry and the all-volunteer Operations Board worked countless hours in a variety of roles.



## FOOD & HYGIENE DRIVES

Food drives are essential for keeping our pantry well stocked. Each year dozens of community groups, including sports teams, school clubs, scout troops, church groups and more band together to collect essential items to stock our pantry.



**2025 – 2026**  
**32 DRIVES**



**SINCE INCEPTION**  
**100+ DRIVES**

# ♡ SPECIAL PROGRAMS ♡

*Meeting needs. Spreading kindness. Building community.*



## SNACK DRIVES



We collect individually wrapped snack items each semester to stock counselors' offices to help hungry students during the school day.

## BIRTHDAY BAGS



Birthday Blessing bags contain all items needed to make a birthday cake and celebrate a birthday. These bags are assembled and donated by community members and stocked in the pantry for order.

## MEAL KITS



Easy-to-prepare meal kits contain the recipe and all the ingredients needed to create a complete family meal. These kits are assembled and donated by community members and stocked in the pantry for order.

## ENCOURAGING NOTES



Community volunteers write inspiring notes that are included in every pantry order and seasonal gift.

## DONATIONS

BFHNIN is a volunteer-led organization, with **95%** of donations going directly to families in need. We are grateful to have the generous support of corporate partners as well as individual donors.



**78%**  
INDIVIDUAL

**22%**  
CORPORATE

\*Since inception in 2020

# ≡ CORPORATE PARTNERS ≡

\*Giving since inception

## PLATINUM



**Bighthouse**  
FINANCIAL

## GOLD

**N** NOVANT<sup>®</sup>  
HEALTH

## SILVER



## BRONZE



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

**Heather McAfee** – Executive Director, Founder

**Lauren Rosenbaum** – Director, Secretary

**Jill LeClair** – Treasurer

**Amber Brown** – Member at Large

**Erin Furey** – Member at Large

**Robert McAfee** – Member at Large

**Laura McCluer** – Member at Large

**Kathy Wholley** – Member at Large

“

One of the things I love most about Ballantyne is the way our community comes together to care for one another. Every volunteer hour, every donation, and every act of kindness helps ensure that local families receive the support they need with dignity and compassion. It is both humbling and inspiring to see neighbors helping neighbors, making a meaningful difference right here where we live.

**Kathy Wholley**  
Executive Board Member

## ORGANIZATION INFO



Tax ID 85-0999041



[ballantynefamilies.org](https://ballantynefamilies.org)



[Facebook.com/BFHelpingNeighborsInNeed](https://Facebook.com/BFHelpingNeighborsInNeed)



[Instagram.com/bfhelpingneighborsinneed](https://Instagram.com/bfhelpingneighborsinneed)