

Ansonia Public Schools donates food to Valley pantries

ANSONIA –Ansonia Public Schools recently donated nearly 11,600 frozen food servings to five Valley food pantries and multiple community partners.

The frozen food had been purchased for student lunches for the district and couldn't be used due to the state mandated schools closing in March.

The district had moved from providing hot meals in school to cold meals, which are transported into city neighborhoods in a Mobile Meals Program that is serving nearly 700 children daily.

Cases of frozen pizza, chicken tenders, pasta, beef patties and other entrée items that would soon be past their 'use-by' expiration dates have been distributed..

On May 4, vans from five pantries pulled up to Ansonia High School to accept the food donations.

The hand off was coordinated by Bob Lisi, the district's Youth Outreach Officer, and David Morgan, president and CEO of TEAM Inc. of Derby.

TEAM has been overseeing the Food Security Task Force, which includes the food pantries and multiple community organizations, including Ansonia Public Schools.

Lisi and Joe Gonzalez, director of the Ansonia Nutrition Program, serve on the task force for the district.

"This generosity of Ansonia Public Schools is making a meaningful difference for hundreds of children and families turning to the pantries every week," Morgan said.

He noted that each month, the pantries distribute about 65,000 pounds of food to about 877 households, or nearly 2,000 individuals.

Of that total, nearly 600 are children.

Morgan said, "The food pantries are witnessing a surge of households need, so this donation comes at a critical time."

The food pantries that received donations include:

- [**Christ Episcopal Church Samela Food Pantry, Ansonia;**](#)
- [**Salvation Army Greater Valley, Ansonia;**](#)
- [**St. Vincent DePaul Food Bank, Derby;**](#)
- [**Spooner House, Shelton;**](#)
- [**Seymour/Oxford Food Bank.**](#)

Christine Wallace, a consultant working for the Ansonia Nutrition Program, said they had been able to cancel other food orders and used the perishable items on hand in the Mobile Meals Program.

The frozen food could not be returned so donating to local pantries was the next best option. The value of the food is about \$5,700.

Dr. Joseph DiBacco, Superintendent of Schools, thanked Morgan and the pantries for getting the food to those in need. "We are very aware of the family and community needs," he said. "This is incredible. I love seeing people work together to reach a common goal."

"Kudos to Ansonia Public Schools in this specific initiative to address food hardship and the complex impact that a community's food economy can have on a region's social wellbeing and health and wellness, especially amidst a public health crisis," Morgan added.

DiBacco also announced that the Mobile Meals Program, which provides breakfast and lunch each day for children ages 18 and under, will continue throughout the summer.



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Ansonia is a **Community Eligibility Provision district**, in which all students receive free breakfast and lunch daily. Funding is from the USDA Child Nutrition program, which is open ended.

Ansonia is prepared to provide as many meals that are needed for youth ages 18 and younger.

For more information about this program, go to <https://www.ansonia.org/food-services/meal-dropoff-menu>. Due to the Memorial Day holiday on May 25, double meals will be provided at bus stops on May 22.

See the food delivery routes on P.2 at the April 27 Valley-Voice CT newsletter [HERE](#)



This is taken from a press release from Ansonia Public Schools

Air National Guard flyover salutes Griffin Hospital workers



By Ralph Villers

DERBY - Thursday morning a CT Air National Guard C-130H performed a flew over Griffin Hospital to salute health care workers.

The event was part of **Operation American Resolve** to salute the workers who are hailed as heroes during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It's also National Hospital Week May 10-16.

The sign at the corner of Seymour Avenue and Division Street sums of my feelings of gratitude for the work of all Griffin frontline workers during my pandemic and the Connecticut ANG 103rd Airlift Wing:-

Thank you!

