

PRESS RELEASE

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Hancock County Creates Alliance to Distribute Needed Food

A Collaboration Between the Findlay YMCA, United Way of Hancock County, City of Findlay, Findlay City Schools

Findlay, OH, 5/15/2020 — Local organizations are coordinating efforts to ensure Hancock County students in need can access meals.

The United Way of Hancock County, City of Findlay, Findlay City Schools and Findlay Family YMCA met early Sunday morning to form a communication network intended to identify gaps in meals for students and families impacted by the Governor's recent announcement of school closings due to the COVID-19 virus. As a result, locations for supplemental meal distributions have been established, volunteer and donor support avenues have been defined and an ongoing communication plan to direct those in need to resources has been identified.

United Way of Hancock County Sets up Relief Fund for Ongoing Support of Emerging Needs

The United Way of Hancock County has established the United Way of Hancock County Relief Fund at First Federal Bank to donate in support of Hancock County residents impacted by recent events and our current public health crisis. All funds donated to this account will be used to meet local needs including supplemental meals such as the Feed-A-Child program which is a funded program of United Way.

Contributions can be made in any amount at any First Federal Bank location in Northwest Ohio. Additionally, checks can be sent to United Way of Hancock County, 245 Stanford Parkway or online at <http://www.liveunitedhancockcounty.org/give> with "Crisis Response" in the check memo or online comment section.

"We realize there will be emerging needs in addition to supplemental meals as this event unfolds in our community and we want to make sure children and families have access to the resources and assistance they need," said UWHC CEO Angela DeBoskey.

"There has been conversations about food drives to help pantries so we reached out to Linda Hamilton, CEO, at the West Ohio Food Bank who said monetary donations are twice as cost-effective than food drives due to West Ohio's ability to buy in bulk and drive costs down."

Findlay City School Granted Waiver for School Meal Programs for City and County Students:

“Our community has responded generously to the announcement of the closings and Findlay City Schools is prepared to serve its students,” said Ed Kurt, Findlay City Schools Superintendent. “We want to be sure we manage the resources available to ensure longevity of anticipated future food distributions and we will continue to work closely with the Feed-A-Child program and the other organizations on a weekly basis to inform the community of ongoing needs.”

Beginning Tuesday, March 17, Findlay City Schools will offer a grab-and-go meal Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Glenwood Middle School and Lincoln Elementary School for children ages one through 18 from Hancock County. Children must be present to receive the meals.

“These meals include a lunch for the current day and breakfast for the following morning and meals can be picked up at Glenwood’s rear entrance and at Lincoln’s west cafeteria entrance,” said Teresa Welty, Findlay City Schools Director of Food Services.

Findlay Family YMCA Adds Feed-A-Child Distribution Points:

“The Findlay YMCA’s Feed-A-Child and its volunteers are prepared to mobilize and join forces with Findlay City Schools to fulfill the needs of our students,” said the Findlay YMCA’s CEO, Paul Worstell.

The Findlay YMCA’s Feed-A-Child, managed by Jennifer Treece and Katie Griffin, will be present at eight Findlay City primary and secondary schools on Tuesdays and Fridays from 4 – 6 p.m. weekly to distribute one food bag to every child in need. The pick-up locations include Whittier Elementary, Wilson Vance Elementary, Jefferson Elementary, Chamberlin Hill, Lincoln Elementary, Jacobs Elementary, Bigelow Hill and Northview Elementary. Each bag contains two breakfasts, two lunches, two dinners, and two snacks.

The Feed-A-Child program has a team of committed volunteers but may need support for ongoing efforts. To learn more about current and emerging volunteer opportunities as a result of the COVID-19 virus, contact Katie Griffin, Feed-A-Child Coordinator, at 419-422-4424 Ext 20 or email kgriffin@findlayymca.com or email sarah.mayle@uwhancock.org.

One Source for Up-To-Date Resources and Information:

The City of Findlay and Mayor Christina Muryn are committed to providing the necessary communication channels to ensure the needs of the public are met.

“The City of Findlay is grateful for the quick response of established organizations within Hancock County as we continuously address the rising issue of food security during this crisis. This collaboration will provide an organized, effective approach in the community,” said Mayor Muryn.

For a comprehensive list of supplemental meals and other basic need resources, visit www.hancockhelps.org

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Findlay City Schools’ Non-Discrimination Policy

The board affirms that, consistent with and to the extent required by applicable law, no person shall, on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, or handicap be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity conducted under its auspices. This shall extend to employees therein and to admission thereto. Inquiries concerning the application of this policy may be referred to the Superintendent or designated coordinator. This policy shall prevail in all Board policies concerning school employees and students.