

The background features a stylized landscape with rolling green hills in the foreground and middle ground. The sky is composed of horizontal, wavy bands of blue and white. On the left side, a purple and pink flower with a dark brown stem and small white curls grows on a green hill. The text is centered in the upper right portion of the image.

**The South End Volunteers
are the Best!**



Our Mission

The mission of the South End Children's Café is to impact food security, equality and justice and enhance the academic achievement and overall wellness of children by offering free, healthy meals along with homework help, enrichment and exercise.



Our Delivery Volunteers are Awesome!

Thank you for your interest in delivering food once a week to the children and families served by the Café. We appreciate your kindness and welcome you into the Children's Café Volunteer Family!

Steps to Becoming A Volunteer

- Check out this power point and see if you are interested (we hope so!)
- Fill out the volunteer application which can be found [HERE](#).
- Once your volunteer application is completed, you will receive an invitation to complete the background check required of all volunteers and staff.
- Within two weeks, you will hear back from us so you can get started!

So You Want to be a Volunteer Food Delivery Person During Covid... That's *Awesome!*

We thank you!



Thank You for Your Kindness and Generosity

Since Covid-19 began, volunteers have delivered

food to families over 36 weeks – once a week, reaching over 400 children each week and their parents, grandparents and caregivers.

One mom said, “I haven’t eaten so healthy in my life.”



Things to Know About Being a Volunteer Driver for the Children's Café during Covid

1. Each week, you will check the Google Doc to see what time you have been assigned to drive and what families you are delivering to. We try to give you the same families/routes each week – but sometimes we have to make changes. Volunteers typically deliver to 3 – 6 families and delivery takes about one hour to complete.
2. You will pick up your packages at the Children's Café, unless otherwise notified. The Children's Café is located at 25 Warren Street, Albany, 12202. The zip is very important as there are 3 Warren Streets in Albany!
3. When you arrive at your designated time, there will be three parking spots with orange cones to drive into. If the spots are all taken, please wait in the lot across the street until a spot opens up. This will help with congestion and social distancing.
4. **While volunteering for the Children's Café, masks must be worn properly at all times.**
5. When you arrive, a staff will come out and bring you your bags. You may remain in your car and we will load your bags in and give you any special instructions needed. Once you get your bags, you may make your deliveries.
6. Your families have been given a time frame to expect their groceries. They have been asked not to come to greet you as this is contact free delivery. You may leave their package in front of their door, and ring the bell or knock if you are able. You do not have to wait for your family to come out and get their food.
7. Once you are done with your deliveries, please text Shaletha at (518) 816-3099 to let her know you are all set. If you have any problems, questions, comments or suggestions, please let Shaletha know.

Your Safety is of Utmost Importance

- We have Travel Bags with gloves, masks, sanitizer and other items for you. Please let us know when you need replenishing.
- We suggest you drive in groups of two.
- Our staff is at the Children's Café during your deliveries in the event you need support or assistance.
- The bags and boxes may be heavy so we suggest our volunteers be able to lift 30 pounds to volunteer
- We are open to all suggestions, ideas, concerns and guidance. We are in this together!

Has the Delivery Program Helped?

- "I think it's the best thing that's ever happened"
- "This Program has been a blessing to me and my son"
- "Yes, it has helped us in so many ways. Especially when we don't have to much food in the house. It's been very helpful"
- "Yes. Money has been tight since the pandemic hit and every little bit helps so much. Thanks for doing this for our community"
- "Yes. It has brought food in our household that we are not always able to afford"
- "Yess. No federal or county or state aide except medical and food is scarce and milk can barely keep up"
- "Omggg yes. I'm disabled physically and am on disability. This food helps me to feed my family so much during this pandemic. I do appreciate all that you do to get us through the week each week. Thank you so much"
- "Yes a lot it helps me feed my family"
- "Yes, it keeps food on the table when times are rough"
- "This year has been really hard on my family. I have been out of work since March 2020, the food the we received every week helps us a lot. Thank you so much we don't know what we would do without you guys"
- "I live on a fixed income so the extra food is helpful"
- "It has cut down on food costs and saved me a lot of trips to the store"
- "Yes, it has and I am very grateful"
- "With 4 kids it has been hard to keep food its been such help"
- "Yes it has helped my household a lot... making availability of food in the house weekly. Just want to thank you for giving us a helping hand"
- "Love ya"
- "Yes they have I always can't wait until I receive my food"
- "It helped by keeping food on my table when times got hard for me and my family"
- Being able to feed us all, two of my adult children lost their jobs with the school district and had to move in with me. I'm retired but have a big house, was living with just one grandchild. So it was a big thing just to feed everyone. They helped me out with other household items"
- Just to thank the program for all their help it has been greatly appreciated being a single parent trying to raise two children in which one of them is recovering from cancer surgery. Its been hard but the program gain has been a great help"
- "I appreciate all the help, don't know what I would do without them"

FAQ's

Where does the food we deliver come from?

The food is donated or purchased with funds donated to the Café.

How do the families find out about the food delivery program?

Many of the families have already been involved with the Café or hear about the program from others.

How long will the delivery program go on for?

We will continue delivering food throughout the Covid-19 crisis.

Do you need any more drivers?

We are always in need of volunteer drivers.

How is the Children's Café funded?

We are funded by donations, fundraisers and grants.



Here Are Some of the Beautiful Children You Are Serving!

