

Hospitality House raises \$23k with Nov. Events

Written by Todd Carter

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Two annual events that support the Hospitality House broke records this year in efforts to fight hunger in the High Country. The 3rd annual ASU Hunger Games and the 3rd annual High Country Turkey Trot together collected over 3,400 pounds of food and raised over \$23,000. An event sponsored by Appalachian State University's Appalachian and the Community Together (ACT) for Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week, The Hunger Games, based on the popular book series, were designed to raise awareness about hunger in Watauga County and collect food for the Hospitality House.

Nearly 3,000 pounds of food were raised at the event, making it the largest food drive donation for the Hospitality House to date.

"I'm so thankful that so many people were willing fight hunger and have fun while doing it," student and event organizer Chris Criqui said. "I'm blessed to have such a talented and hard working committee to work with me and I hope this event continues and grows after I graduate."

On Thanksgiving Day, over 550 pounds of food were added to the Hospitality House pantry as runners and walkers came out to brave the cold weather at the 3rd annual High Country Turkey Trot. Over 750 participants registered for the event, making it the largest 5K in the High Country. The competitive 5K timed run had runners and walkers from 22 states, 58 unique towns and cities in N.C., and 2 foreign countries. Hearts of Hospitality, the ambassador group for Hospitality House, organized the event with 100 percent of proceeds benefitting men, women and children living in crisis, poverty and homelessness. This year over \$23,000 was raised for the organization.

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“Even though the weather kept onsite registration lower than we anticipated, we still had a tremendous turn out and raised more money and food than ever before,” Hospitality House Director of Development Todd Carter said.

With a 26% poverty rate in the region and temperatures dropping, Hospitality House is seeking donations and support for their shelter programs and their Bread of Life Community Kitchen. The kitchen serves 3 meals a day, 365 days a year and the food box program fed 6,000 people last year.

“We are currently averaging 40 food boxes a day here at the Hospitality House and these donations will help us serve those families in need and keep food on their tables,” Hospitality House Project Manager Brittany Johnson said. “We are so grateful for our community who continues to make a difference by joining us in the fight against poverty and hunger.”

The Hospitality House is a non-profit crisis agency serving seven counties in northwestern North Carolina helping those living in crisis, poverty, and homelessness rebuild their lives.

Visit www.HospHouse.org for more information or contact Brittany Johnson at Brittany@hosphouse.org or 828-264-1237.