



2025 Participation, Projects and Accomplishments

In 2025, Community Alliance of South County (CASC) expanded our presence in South County by building on our connections within the community, by involving volunteers in our projects and by helping to launch new initiatives which provide services to the community. We continued to support and enhance our ongoing projects, and partnered with organizations and individuals working in their community service programs. We continued with steps to improve as an organization by opening our planning sessions to include new voices and by continuing our membership in Maryland Non-Profits and the Non-Profit Development Center.

New in 2025

The Giving Yellow Bag Project



The Giving Yellow Bag project, launched in January, was proposed by a South County resident. CASC members provided support for the project's start-up and assisted with its implementation during 2025. This project engages community members to donate, collect and deliver needed personal hygiene items for local health and educational organizations. The pilot project was a great success and, as a result, the project was expanded into additional neighborhoods late in the year.

Hydroponics In Schools

In coordination with the Community School Managers at two local Elementary Schools, we developed plans to introduce a program to grow edible plants hydroponically in the classroom. Initial support was given to one school for the set-up of systems in one grade. Late in the year, plans were established for a more robust roll-out in a second school, and included a STEM curriculum support component. Enhancements to this project are planned for the 2026-7 school year.

Ongoing and Annual Projects

Bountiful (Weekend Food) Backpacks

CASC members again participated in the Bountiful Backpacks program at Our Lady of Sorrows Church. This program provides bags of food for a number of students at Tracey's and Deale Elementary Schools. CASC members assisted with packing bags and delivering food to the school on a weekly basis as well as with pick-ups from the Anne Arundel County Food Bank.





Tracey's Elementary School "Spring Fling Thing"



CASC members greeted students and family members with games, toys and snacks while sharing information about community services such as the SCAN Food Pantry and the Call N' Ride transportation service.

Summer Kick-Off at Deale Library

CASC joined the library's event and brought puzzles and games for kids and families at the kickoff of the Library's summer reading program.



Back-To-School Community Event for Southern Feeder Schools



CASC joined other community organizations at two back-to-school information events in August. Members of our Board greeted students and family members and provided games, toys and snacks while sharing information about community services such as the SCAN Food Pantry and the Call N' Ride transportation service.

Produce Partners

CASC members worked along side volunteers on this project to collect excess produce from local growers and vendors and distribute fresh fruit and vegetables to residents in underserved neighborhoods in South County. This project continues to grow as more volunteers, new growers and additional items – such as eggs - are included.



S.T.A.I.R. (Start The Adventure In Reading)



As in the past, members of our organization volunteered as tutors - and recruited new tutors - with this program. In 2025, two of our members continued to serve as co-coordinators for S.T.A.I.R. Annapolis at Tracey's Elementary School.

SCAN Food Pantry Support

SCAN operates a federally-subsidized food pantry that has been in existence for over 40 years in South County. Clients must meet criteria and can receive food once each month. CASC maintains a bin at the Deale Library to collect nonperishable food donations. and, when the bin is full, CASC collects the food and delivers it to SCAN. CASC members also volunteer, and recruit volunteers, to work at the pantry on a regular or substitute basis.



Monthly Food Calendars and Resource Lists

Continuing with the project established during the early days of the COVID pandemic, CASC prepared and published two documents monthly, identifying food resources available to residents of South County. Relevant events and sites are identified from state, county and local sources and compiled into both a calendar and a more detailed resource listing. The calendar identifies, by date, supplemental food distribution events taking place in South County, including locations and times. The resource list provides details about the events on the calendar, and includes additional food resources not applicable for a calendar listing. Each month, up-to-date versions of both documents are posted on the CASC website, on the CASC Facebook page, and are emailed to an extensive list of faith organizations, community groups and individuals.

Weekly Information Sharing – Community Connections

As a known source for outreach to the South County community, CASC receives information from numerous agencies, organizations and individuals regarding events and opportunities of possible interest to our neighbors, including requests for volunteers to assist at food pantries, food distribution events, and with programs such as the STAIR reading program at local elementary schools. CASC continued to prepare and email relevant information to an extensive list of South County contacts. Recipients, as always, are encouraged to share information and flyers with their communities.

Conclusions

Expanded community collaboration continued to be critical for CASC as we pursued our projects with the goal of “moving forward – working together” during 2025. CASC’s prior work in the areas of food access and nutrition, transportation and connectivity, and youth and education support led to new opportunities for partnering with individuals and organizations in South County. CASC’s consistent presence as “information hub” for South County enabled us to reach new audiences, gain new supporters, welcome new volunteers, and serve a wider community. With enhanced community involvement, we helped launch the new Giving Yellow Bag program and nurture its growth during the year. Also with enhanced community support, we were able to lay the groundwork for a program to grow edible plants hydroponically at local elementary schools.

Looking ahead to 2026, we anticipate expanding the reach of our Giving Yellow Bag program and further develop our Hydroponics in Schools initiative. We have laid the groundwork for a project to address both underemployment in our communities and the need of local businesses to fill open positions. We recognize the need to respond to changing needs and challenges in South County and will remain flexible in our approach to supporting the community. We hope to broaden community participation in our projects, will continue to look to the community to help define needs and develop solutions. As an organization, we hope to create a more dynamic media presence and will seek to expand participation on our Board.