



Community Alliance of South County

Moving Forward. Working Together

Projects and Accomplishments

Since organizing in early June of 2019, the Community Alliance of South County (CASC) has worked in our community to offer and support programs that address community needs and achieve sustainable results in four primary areas: Community Outreach, Education and Youth, Food Access and Nutrition, and Transportation.

Community Outreach

Our outreach to the community is the tool which enables us to both listen to and inform the community. We listen in order to learn what issues are of most importance to our neighbors. We inform in order to provide our neighbors with ideas and resources that enable them to address issues and solve problems. We have reached out to the community in several ways:

Information Sessions

We have sponsored public information sessions in which members of the community were invited to discuss issues, raise concerns and propose solutions on topics such as:

- Food insufficiency in South County
- Disengaged Youth
- Opportunities in the Trades.

Community Events

We have listened to our neighbors and shared information during various events hosted by community organizations:

- Ralph Bunche Community Day (Summer 2019)
- National Night Out, Shady Side (Summer 2019)
- Multi-Cultural Picnic at Wayson Woods community (Summer 2019)
- South County Fiesta at the Deale Library (Fall 2019)
- Edgewater Library Resource Fair (Spring 2020).

Community Resource Hub

We have served as a resource to the community for sharing information and making connections. We have connected those looking to serve with opportunities to do so, particularly in the area of Food Access and Nutrition, where we:

- paired groups interested in providing financial support with programs needing funding
- connected individuals interested in volunteering with programs needing volunteers
- referred organizations interested in utilizing their resources to assist with meal preparation and distribution during the pandemic to county programs serving food to seniors

In July of 2020 we began publishing a monthly calendar of Food Pantries in the South County area, as well as a comprehensive list of emergency food resources available to South County residents during the pandemic.



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Education and Youth

Our focus on issues facing youth in our schools has led to our participation in several programs aimed at delivering services to students in South County.

STAIR (Start The Adventure In Reading – Annapolis) Program Support

During the 2019-2020 school year, CASC recruited four tutors to the STAIR program, a reading program designed to help 2nd grade students who struggle with reading to improve their skills and develop confidence in their ability to read.

Bountiful Backpacks Weekend Food Program Support

During the 2019-2020 school year, CASC provided volunteers and financial resources for the Bountiful Backpacks Weekend Food Program for Tracey's Elementary School. Our contributions made it possible for the program to meet an increased need to serve 40 students each week by donating food, securing funding, volunteering, and recruiting additional volunteers to assist with packing and delivery. In addition, CASC provided, packed and delivered bags of food for the 40 students during periods not covered by the established program (for example, prior to the winter break.)

On-Line Arts Institute for South County Students

During the summer of 2020, CASC was able to obtain scholarships for four South County students to attend an online art institute hosted by Creating Communities. This institute was offered in lieu of the summer camp that was planned by CASC and Creating Communities for South County youth; this camp was cancelled due to the COVID-19 virus. Plans are underway to offer this camp during the summer of 2021.

Art and Education Supplies for South County Students

During the summer of 2020, CASC obtained, through the generous support of Creating Communities, 60 bags filled with children's art supplies, games, and books which we then distributed to children living in several of the mobile home communities in South County.

Food Access and Nutrition

Our work aimed at enhancing the ability of our neighbors to secure healthy food has taken on heightened significance in the time of the COVID-19 virus. We work to assist our neighbors obtain food and to encourage healthy eating and self-sustaining food access solutions.

Little Free Pantry Project

CASC members constructed a Little Free Pantry, placed it with a sponsoring organization and provided items to initially stock the pantry. South County Community Church in Shady Side now maintains the pantry.



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Food Access and Nutrition (continued)

South County FEAST

CASC has embarked on a multi-faceted project whose aim is to promote “Food that is Equitable, Accessible and Sustainable for Tomorrow” in South County, Anne Arundel County. With the generous support of the Anne Arundel County Partnership for Children, Youth and Families, as well as Greenstreet Gardens in Lothian, CASC was able to deliver container gardening kits to more than 65 residents of South County. These kits included grow bags, potting mix, seedling plants and/or seeds, and tools as well as instructions on growing the edible plants. A new phase of this project will begin in Spring 2021.

Food Pantry Sign-up

CASC members, working with SCAN Board members, conducted outreach to mobile home communities to expand access to the SCAN food pantry. SCAN members provided information and assistance in signing-up qualified residents, and CASC provided information about transportation options, the new Call ‘N’ Ride service in particular.

Transportation

Our understanding that lack of access to transportation is critical to addressing other issues of the residents of South County, transportation was our highest priority in 2019. CASC members helped define the community transportation needs and inform decisions regarding alternatives to the South County Circulator. In support of the new Call N’ Ride system, CASC members

- conducted public information sessions
- provided information for publication in the *Bay Weekly*
- designed, prepared and distributed a “Call N’ Ride Hints” flyer (in both English and Spanish) to simplify information about the service and to describe how to access it
- distributed the “Call N’ Ride Hints” flyers to more than 150 businesses, medical and dental offices and churches.

Community Collaborators:

STAIR – Annapolis

Greenstreet Gardens, Lothian

Creating Communities – Annapolis

Mobile Home Community management

South County Community Church, Shady Side

Anne Arundel County Public Library, Deale Branch

Anne Arundel County Department of Transportation

Tracey’s Elementary School – Administrators and Staff

Anne Arundel County Partnership for Children, Youth and Families

Bountiful Backpacks Weekend Food Program for Tracey’s Elementary School

For more information on our projects or to find out how to volunteer, contact us

Email: communityalliancesc@gmail.com

Facebook: [CommunityAllianceofSouthCounty](https://www.facebook.com/CommunityAllianceofSouthCounty)

Community Alliance of South County is a 501(c)(3) nonprpofit organization
