



October 30, 2025

Dear Mountain Projects Supporters,

You're hearing from us a little earlier than usual — and for a very important reason that directly affects neighbors here in Western North Carolina.

Due to the ongoing **government shutdown**, thousands of families will not receive their **SNAP (food stamp)** benefits in November. We are unclear when funding will be re-established.

In **Haywood and Jackson Counties alone**, more than **12,000 households** rely on SNAP each month. Many of these families also turn to **Mountain Projects** for childcare so they can work, or for **rental assistance, emergency heating, and other essential, basic human needs**.

Every month, Mountain Projects works with almost **3,000+ low-income, vulnerable individuals**, a high percentage of whom are food insecure. Among the people we serve throughout our programs (with some overlapping groups):

- 35% are **seniors** (age 65+)
- 60% are **disabled**
- 12% are **young children**
- 30% are **low-income working families**

Without SNAP support, **many will simply go hungry**, unless we step up to help.

Mountain Projects has established food pantries at our Waynesville and Sylva offices to ensure we can provide food to households in need. We are accepting donations of shelf-stable foods and financial contributions to provide milk, cheese, juice, fruits, vegetables, and other proteins to these families.

How you can help

If you're able, please consider **making a donation to Mountain Projects** or to your **local food bank**. Every contribution helps ensure that families across our region have access to food.

If you are receiving this letter, you will also receive our holiday newsletter in the coming weeks. We ask that our contributors prioritize charitable efforts that are personally meaningful and within your means. Whether it is food assistance, housing, winter warmth or the emergency fund - we appreciate you and feel grateful that you share what you have with the community.

Thank you for standing with us — **your support strengthens the safety net** that benefits our entire community.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Si Simmons", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Si Simmons, Executive Director, Mountain Projects
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Please use the enclosed envelope to mail donations or visit: <https://mountainprojects.org/giving/>