



PRESS RELEASE

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RELEASE: Families First in Cabarrus County and Feeding Kannapolis Hunger receive grant from No Kid Hungry to decrease food insecurity in young children

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4-14-2021, Cabarrus County, NC: No Kid Hungry, a campaign from the national nonprofit Share Our Strength, will invest [\\$3 million in grants to organizations](#) focused on early childhood to help decrease food insecurity among children under the age of six. At one point during the past year, [40 percent of parents of kids under six reported job or income loss related to the coronavirus pandemic. More than one in five parents reported food insecurity in their household.](#) Early childhood is the most intensive period of brain and body development, and hunger and hardship at this age can have long-term implications for children.

The No Kid Hungry grants will serve more than 120 early child care centers, healthcare providers and community organizations. These organizations work with an estimated 170,000 children under the age of five in 34 states and the District of Columbia, including Cabarrus County, NC.

“Food insecurity in the early years can have an immediate and lasting impact on overall health, learning, school readiness, and behavior,” says Caron Gremont, Director of Early Childhood for the No Kid Hungry campaign. “These flexible, year-long grants will help organizations provide healthy food to young kids and their families at this critical time.”

Though these new partnerships and support, we will provide weekly 25-50lb boxes of fresh food and vouchers – for 48 straight weeks to 100s of families. Boxes are distributed at our facilities and neighborhood networks, packaged and supplied by Feeding Kannapolis Hunger's resource channels!

Every family will have nutritious weekend meals, including rural Hispanic food deserts in two neighboring counties, Rowan and Mecklenburg, enriching our mission to strengthen the whole family. Families First is a model that works with the whole family, starting with children ages 0-8 years old and their parents. Our heartbeat is weekly home-visiting and two 5-star immersion preschools.

"We are most excited to remove the wearying distraction of persistent hunger in homes and see healthier and happier children," says Aurora Swain, Director of Operations. *"Most of our families are families of color and feeling the effects of hunger and malnutrition at a disproportionate rate due to the pandemic."* This collaborative effort

with No Kid Hungry, Feeding Kannapolis Hunger, and volunteers will relieve hunger tensions, opening the door for healthier relationships, learning and development!”

About No Kid Hungry

No child should go hungry in America. But in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, 1 in 6 kids could face hunger this year. No Kid Hungry is working to end childhood hunger by helping launch and improve programs that give all kids the healthy food they need to thrive. This is a problem we know how to solve. No Kid Hungry is a campaign of Share Our Strength, an organization committed to ending hunger and poverty.

Families First in Cabarrus County

Our mission is to nurture children, empower parents, and strengthen families so they flourish for generations. We accomplish bold visions to break cycles of poverty by implementing programs build for people and meeting families where they are. We offer multiple programs including a nationally recognized home-visiting family and parenting development program; by operating two, five-star immersion preschool locations with parent workforce development; a 16 week addiction programs where whole families heal together; and weekly English as a Second Language (ESL), General Education Diploma (GED), and tutoring classes. All of our programs are offered in English and Spanish.