

Schoodic Food Pantry

Mailing Address: PO Box 173, Corea, ME 04624
Physical Location: 829 U.S. Route 1, Gouldsboro, ME 04607
Donna Harmon, Director
"Community Unity"

You are cordially invited to the Third Annual Schoodic Food Pantry's Chinese Auction to be held on Saturday, July 18th, 2026 from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Gouldsboro Recreation Center, 679 Pond Road, Gouldsboro.

As in past years, the event will auction a plethora of donated goods, services, artwork, and gift certificates. There will be a 50/50 raffle and a delicious, decadent dessert bar with all of your favorites donated by Corea Catering and other supporters of the pantry. Last year, we raised over \$26,000 that went directly back into our community by stocking the shelves at the pantry.

There are no income guidelines, and no one is ever turned away with the pantry donating to those in need hailing from towns ranging from Ellsworth to Machias. We encompass both Hancock and Washington counties. Prior to arriving at the pantry, many patrons describe the stigma and sense of shame in not being able to adequately feed themselves and their families. We strive to overcome this barrier and create a welcoming and respectful environment. There is always a crowd around our chat table that is stocked with fresh baked goods. One gentleman stated, "the staff are always willing to help and make recipients feel welcome." Another patron described our volunteers exhibiting "kindness and respect that balances the needs for all people who enter the pantry."

Now, more than in past years, your donations are critical to help stock the shelves at the pantry. Families, individuals, veterans, children, and homeless in our community are hungry, and many do not know where their next meal is coming from. Last year, we served 450+ families. Today, we serve 680+ families with 5-10 new families arriving at our door each week. The escalation in food insecurity is due to a host of factors resulting from sky high food and fuel prices, high housing costs, as well as downward trends in seasonal employment in forestry, agriculture, and fishing - the economic mainstay of our area.

According to the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future, Ending Hunger in Maine (2025), Washington County has the highest rate of childhood hunger in Maine and New England. Children living in hunger experience "devastating impacts on physical and mental health, academic achievement, behavioral problems, and future economic prosperity. Food insecurity in children is associated with delayed development, increased risk of chronic illness and mental health issues like anxiety and depression, among many other serious consequences with long-term impacts for individuals, families, and communities." One morning, a tearful mother thanked our staff, stating that "because of the food from the pantry, my family gets to have supper tonight." Another patron described the pantry as having, "wonderful food that helps us and families to get by without going hungry through the week."

We appreciate and thank you for your support! All donations are tax deductible.