

PORCH Student Ambassadors fed 665 families in May

UNC Football Players lead the charge by fighting food insecurity in their hometowns

Chapel Hill, NC – June 6, 2023 – PORCH Communities, a non-profit organization whose mission is to mobilize and support local volunteers to create sustainable hunger relief programs, celebrates the achievements of its [PORCH Student Ambassadors](#). In May these passionate young leaders joined forces to collect more than 2500 pounds of food across North Carolina, Virginia and Pennsylvania.

The PORCH Student Ambassador program, launched in March, unites high school and college students in the fight against hunger. Working in collaboration with UNC Football players, Heels4Life, and the North Carolina Hall of Fame, the program initiated the #HometownHeels campaign. Together, these athletes partnered with PORCH, their hometown coaches, and high schools to organize impactful food drives benefiting local food pantries. The campaign not only raised awareness about the pervasive issue of food insecurity but also fostered a sense of community engagement, inspiring individuals to effect positive change in their hometowns.

Reflecting on the impact of the program, Andre Greene Jr, a wide receiver on the UNC football team, shared his experience, stating, "Getting involved to help address food insecurity in my hometown of Richmond, VA has been an amazing experience. As a student ambassador with PORCH, I had the opportunity to work with the kids at my alma mater, St. Christopher's, to organize a food drive in support of the Belmont Pantry. Thanks to the generosity of the STCVA community, we were able to collect enough food to feed 150 local families. This is just the beginning of what I hope will become a sustainable hunger relief program for Richmond in the future."

In addition to the efforts of the UNC football team, students from Mercersburg Academy, Elon University, and New Hanover High School also joined the PORCH Student Ambassador program, collectively accumulating nearly 1,000 pounds of food in May to support local food pantries.

Lori Webber, the PORCH Student Ambassador Program director and volunteer, expressed her pride in guiding Andre and other ambassadors on their mission to combat hunger in their hometowns. She emphasized their dedication and shared, "They recognize the devastating impact food insecurity has on individuals and families, and want to use their platforms and resources to make a positive impact in their community."

Looking ahead, PORCH Communities is eager to continue its impactful work. The organization has exciting plans for the upcoming school year, including another #HometownHeels event in Charlotte with UNC quarterback Drake Maye. Additionally, new high schools and colleges will be joining the PORCH Student Ambassador program in the fall, expanding the organization's reach and impact.

The PORCH Student Ambassador program makes it easy for any student to engage in the fight against hunger. By equipping them with the necessary knowledge, tools, and support, the program empowers ambassadors to educate their community about food insecurity, conduct PORCH pop-up food drives, and be a catalyst for creating a sustainable hunger relief program in their hometowns or college communities through the PORCH for Pantries model.

To join the ambassador program visit www.porchcommunities.org/students. And to donate to PORCH Communities' ongoing initiatives, please visit www.porchcommunities.org/donate.

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About PORCH Communities: PORCH Communities fights food insecurity by creating sustainable hunger relief programs at the local level. Started in 2010 in Chapel Hill, NC, PORCH has grown into a repeatable model of monthly neighborhood food drives and fresh produce distribution supplying food pantries, schools, and community programs across the country. PORCH's

volunteer network of 30 chapters in 9 states, has contributed more than \$10 million dollars in hunger relief. Learn more at www.porchcommunities.org.

About Heels4Life: As UNC's football NIL collective, H4L is committed to providing student-athletes with unique, valuable, and enriching opportunities by leveraging their Name, Image, and Likeness rights with the Tar Heel community. Heels4Life ensures that UNC student-athletes receive the ability to give back to deserving charities and participate in professional and educational initiatives. To learn more visit www.heels4life.org.

About North Carolina Hall of Fame (NCHOF): NCHOF is a non-profit organization created to establish a hall of fame to honor former University of North Carolina student athletes, coaches, teams, and other contributors who excelled at their chosen sport while demonstrating exceptional character. NCHOF and its ambassadors also endeavor to promote and support local and regional charities that align with NCHOF's mission.

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North Carolina Hall of Fame

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