

News Release

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Arlington High School students raise nearly \$20,000 for food bank truck

ARLINGTON- Arlington High School (AHS) students raised \$19,000 to support the purchase of a food truck mobile pantry for the Arlington Community Food Bank. Several students presented the check to the food bank on Jan. 27. The SMARTCAP Group and SMARTCAP Construction each provided two \$10,000 checks and the city of Arlington gave \$60,000 to fund the rest of the food truck using federal funds.

“We’ve seen a dramatic increase in calls from families during the pandemic and the need for this food truck is even more important,” said Carla Rankin, Arlington Community Food Bank Executive Director. “The community support has been overwhelming for this project.”

The 16-foot food truck will be able to deliver meals to those who may not be able to travel to the food bank. It will also be refrigerated to keep food cool. The truck will be delivered in two weeks.

AHS teachers Scott Moberly, Julie Martin, Anne Hayman and Meaghan Rust-Matter approached AHS Principal, Duane Fish, in August of 2020 with the fundraising idea for the mobile pantry.

“We are a Character Strong school and supporting the food bank truck project aligns with our focus to ‘Be Involved, Work Hard, Be Kind,’” said Fish. “Funds were raised in multiple ways, in particular by the Boys Basketball team, DECA, and a virtual concert with AHS teacher, Ben Ballew. The students really got this project off the ground.”

Laura Meno, an AHS Senior, volunteers at the food bank and said cars were lined up to receive food once the pandemic began. They also received many calls from people who couldn't make it to the food bank. She helped to organize the fundraising campaign at AHS to raise money for the food truck.

“I was nervous that since we weren’t in person and were learning virtually at the time, that people wouldn’t support the fundraiser,” said Meno. “It turned out that there was incredible support from students, families and staff. There is such a need in the community. It’s heartwarming that the community supported such a great cause.”

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