

The Angel Fund is a quiet, yet impactful, charity that provides students in Jackson County Schools with money for breakfast and lunch when circumstances interfere with their access to nutritious meals. This fund is designed to ensure each student can eat during the school day, which is necessary for health and learning.

Private donors, businesses, civic groups and churches donate money to the Jackson County School Nutrition Program designated for the Angel Fund. All nine schools in the district share the Angel Fund - Blue Ridge School, Blue Ridge Early College, Smoky Mountain High School, Cullowhee Valley School, Scott's Creek Elementary School, Fairview, Jackson County Early College, School of Alternatives and Smokey Mountain Elementary. The fund is monitored daily to guarantee appropriate use, and identify students who may need additional assistance.

The Angel Fund helps students in the following ways:

- 1) Prevent alternative meals - Students in K-8th are allowed to charge up to \$10.00. Letters are sent home weekly with students with a balance of \$5.00. Connect Ed. calls are also sent home once a month as well as students being reminded of their balances daily at the register. Students who have accumulated \$-10.00 debt are provided an alternate meal consisting of a cheese sandwich, fruit, vegetable and milk. ***The procedures for the fund will allow students who have accumulated \$-10.00 debt to use the fund four times (2 days-breakfast and lunch) so they can get a regular meal.*** Once the account is twice, the School Nutrition Director will call to parents to see if they may qualify for benefits and/or provide assistance. This has been a successful use for the fund, and parents are grateful their students were allowed to get a regular meal. In most cases, money is brought in the next day.

Students in 9th-12th are not allowed to charge meals. If they do not have lunch money, the students are provided the alternate meal at no cost. ***The Angel Fund allows them to have a regular meal, but no more than four consecutive times (2 days – breakfast and lunch).***
- 2) "The Angel Fund List" is a confidential list of students who are known to have no or very little resources for food at home. These students are allowed to get an additional meal using The Angel Fund since it is unlikely they may not get another meal until the next day.
- 3) Student debt – Students who have accrued meal charge debt but later qualify for free or reduced meals, the balance must be paid. Most families do not have the means to pay for this debt. Once we know the status of the family, the School Nutrition administration make the best judgment if the debt should be paid off using the Angel Fund. The end of the year, per federal regulations, schools must pay the School Nutrition Program for student lunch debt. Fund money is used to clear the student debt so the school does not have to pay for it. If money is brought in from the families to pay for the debt, it will be placed in the Angel Fund.
- 4) Sponsorship- There are few circumstances, but some, where the family is over income and the parent(s)/guardian(s) choose not to send lunch money nor provide a bagged lunch and the child(ren) chooses to get an alternate meal. Sponsorship can cover the cost of breakfast and/or lunch for a week, month or year.

School Nutrition Programs are required to have a charge policy. The Angel Fund does not pay for “a la carte items” like snack foods and ice cream.

Needs

If you would like to support The Angel Fund, please make checks payable to School Nutrition Program with “Angel Fund” in the memo. Checks can be mailed to: Attn: Laura Cabe 398 Hospital Rd. Sylva, NC 28779. If you have any questions, please contact Laura Cabe at 828-586-2311 ext. 1936 lcabe@jcpsmail.org.