

The HUB @ Foothills Foodies

Foothills Elementary School

Lakewood, CO



The HUB @ Foothills Foodies, located on the Foothills Elementary School campus, offers free supplemental food, clothing, and wrap-around services to all of Jeffco’s Green Mountain Articulation families. Foothills Elementary is a Title I school, where 76% of the student population qualify for free and reduced lunch. The school strives to be a valued community partner and has developed a critical role to better address a spectrum of needs for struggling families.

The HUB @ Foothills Foodies, which is 100% sufficient because of donations and volunteers, has the capacity to serve over 1500 families within the articulation area. To date, community partners have secured over 2000 pounds of food, thousands of personal hygiene products, and over \$6000 in monetary donations. These partners include the Concordia Lutheran Church, Lakewood Connects, Green Mountain Safeway, A Precious Child, Mission Lakewood Church, the Foothills PTA, Green Mountain Articulation Schools, Foothills Rotary Club, Foothills PTA, and private donors.

The HUB is recognized as a Health and Human Services Academy Career Pathway for Foothills students. Not only does it serve a vital community support function, but it also provides a unique opportunity for elementary age students to experience service. Students stock shelves with food and clothing items and assist in running the HUB as a store by welcoming and assisting shoppers and taking inventory. Students learn that they are never too young to make a meaningful difference in their community.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the HUB has become more critical than ever. Without skipping a beat, Foothills staff and volunteers began providing Grab and Go breakfasts and lunch services through the Jeffco Public Schools Food and Nutrition Office. Since schools switched to online instruction in March, The HUB at Foothills Foodies has provided an estimated 1,080 bags of food to families which include breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks, and hygiene items.

One Foothills parent, who is currently fighting cancer, shared: “Every month is just a struggle to keep medical bills from going to collections and paying the bills for all of our kids. Being able to supplement our groceries takes a little bit of stress out of that situation.” Another parent added: “My husband’s income has been slashed. We have 2 teenage boys that eat nonstop. This food has helped them from going hungry.”

Foothills Elementary was recognized by Lakewood’s Mayor Adam Paul and Jeffco Public School Board President Susan Harmon for its innovative work. Channel 7 and Channel 4 featured the HUB at Foothills Foodies on their newscasts and the Lakewood Sentinel shared with its readers about the resources offered to the community through this utterly amazing collaborative.