



The Town Of Boone
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Backgrounder

Feb. 24, 2017

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THE RISE OF POVERTY OVER THE LAST DECADE REINFORCES NECESSITY OF LOCAL NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS IN BOONE, N.C.

Poverty levels continue to grow

Boone, N.C. – Boone throughout the years has been known for being high in poverty, which is one reason why nonprofit organizations here are vital. Watauga County is the third poorest county in North Carolina. In 2015, the estimated median household income for Boone was \$13,419 while the North Carolina state median was \$47,830. For Boone, 52.05% of estimated households have a household income less than \$15,000. The population of Boone is 18,130, which means that 9,437 people survive on an income of less than \$15,000.

According to bestplaces.net, jobs at Appalachian State University and at the Watauga Medical Center is the most common job in Boone, N.C. These are the two largest sources of employment for residents in Boone; there are so many jobs available for people, some that require college degrees and some that don't.

(-MORE-)

Todd Carter, Director of Development at the Hospitality House of Boone is quoted in the article *Hunger, Homelessness on Rise in High Country; Appalachian Responds During National Awareness Week*, “As the only community kitchen open seven days a week in the area, the Hospitality House serves 12,000 meals per month, more meals than 70 percent of all the restaurants in the High Country. The article goes on to point out that the Health and Hunger Coalition of Boone, currently serves over 1,000 impoverished families per month and has experienced a decrease in food donations from their primary food provider, Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest North Carolina because they are also receiving fewer donations. As Compton Fortuna, Health and Hunger Coalition Executive Director notes in the article, “A family of four living at poverty level might only make \$3,800 a month and \$46,000 annually, which is not nearly enough to provide for all basic needs.”

F.A.R.M. Cafe offers hot meals to everyone giving them the option to pay what they can or even volunteer in exchange for the meal, or if they can't do either, they can still get a hot meal for free. Another source for food is the Hospitality House, which offers several different programs. Their biggest program is their food pantry. Residents can stop in and pick up what they need for the week, so that they're able to eat. Nonprofit organizations like the Hospitality House or F.A.R.M. Cafe really do ease burdens of local residents. Not all of those who are in need are in constant need of assistance from these organizations. Sometimes these organizations help out once in a while for a family or individual.

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<http://www.city-data.com/city/Boone-North-Carolina.html>

http://www.bestplaces.net/economy/city/north_carolina/boone

<https://www.hcpress.com/education/hunger-homelessness-on-rise-in-high-country-appalachian-responds-during-national-awareness-week.html>

<http://carolinapublicpress.org/19178/special-report-part-1-the-poverty-problem-in-the-rural-mountains-of-wnc/>

<https://www.sog.unc.edu/sites/www.sog.unc.edu/files/reports/2016-03-31%2020151227%20Documenting%20Poverty%202016-final.pdf>