

AIR IS FOOD IN ASHEVILLE.™



ABOUT AIR

AIR is all about food in Asheville – delicious, locally-sourced, award-winning food. But we are also about making a difference in the kitchen, at the table, and in the community.

We began in 2003 with the spark of an idea formulated by four local restaurant owners who believed that by working together, Asheville's independent restaurants could create a culture of collaboration and stewardship unique in the industry.

65+

PARTNERS

150+

RESTAURANT MEMBERS

7000+

AIR STAFF

Data recorded prior to
July 2022.

Ok but...

WHAT DOES
THAT MEAN
FOR AIR
STAFF?

There wouldn't be restaurants without the cooks, servers, bartenders, hostesses, dishwashers, managers, bussers, and barbacks that keep them alive.

There wouldn't be restaurants without YOU.

Yes, AIR exists to benefit restaurant owners. But it all started from a place of wanting to provide benefits and security to restaurant employees.

AIR's mission is based on four pillars: Advocacy, Workforce, Membership & Community, and Sustainability. Our pillars are meant to be the foundation for all of our members, owner and employee alike.

ADVOCACY

OUR COLLECTIVE VOICE

Representation: AIR actively collaborates with and participates in conversations with local government bodies such as the ABC Commission, County Manager's Office, the City of Asheville, the Asheville Downtown Association, Asheville Arts Council, and the Chamber of Commerce, to make sure the people who keep Asheville's spirit alive are not just heard but listened to as well

Housing Committee: one of AIR's newest projects that fights to guarantee affordable housing to service industry workers

MEMBERSHIP & COMMUNITY

COLLABORATIVE STRENGTH

Range Urgent Care and Lantern Health: discounted health benefits and doctor visits. AIR's longterm goal is to work as a collective bargaining voice in order to provide full service health insurance to restaurant employees in Asheville

Ben's Friends: sobriety support group for restaurant workers

AIRmail & AIRfare: our newsletters where we celebrate your achievements, spread industry news, and keep our community updated and informed

WORKFORCE

THERE IS NO WE WITHOUT YOU

Giving Kitchen: an organization that provides food service workers with financial assistance in emergencies

CORE Childcare: an organization that provides financial assistance to food service workers with children in emergencies

Job Board: up-to-date job opportunities of all levels at AIR restaurants

Points of Service systems: programs that offer dedicated teams of representatives on standby 24/7 to specifically help at any time with operational issues, as well as provide employee benefits

SUSTAINABILITY

MOVING FORWARD

Lenoir-Ryhne: tuition discounts of up to 20% and waived application fees for graduate degrees that are built with the need for flexibility in mind

Workshops: financial literacy and coaching, food photography, leadership and management, etc.

ServSafe Courses: in partnership with Goodwill Industries, in-person ServSafe courses are highly discounted for AIR employees in both English and Spanish

RASSP training: free educational programs about serving alcohol responsibly

Contact

QUESTIONS?
COMMENTS?
CONCERNS?
IDEAS?

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