



Frequently Asked Questions

WHO ARE WE?

Our organizers are members of Acadia Action's Mutual Aid Subcommittee. Acadia Action (AA), is a collective of neighbors, friends, colleagues, and families who are dedicated to building a future in Hancock County where all people are connected and thriving. Our subcommittee centers concrete acts of relationality and community care and commits ourselves to authentic dialogue, learning, principled action, and solidarity as praxis.

WHAT IS MUTUAL AID?

We define mutual aid as the theory, practice, and organizing strategies that prioritize acts of radical care within our community for the benefit of mutual flourishing. Mutual aid operates outside of state authority to provide people with what they need, where they need it so that all of us can participate in building the physical, social, and intellectual infrastructure crucial for advancing local self-sufficiency and resilience. Mutual aid acts in defiance of commodified social relationships, which often enable existing systems to be perpetrated in opposition to our vision and goals.

Mutual aid is about solidarity, not charity. It is a political practice of acknowledging the capacity already in our communities to imagine new ways of living together and then bring them into being, centered around care instead of profit. We do not wait for help; we become it.

WHAT IS THE REALLY REALLY FREE MARKET?

The Really Really Free Market (RRFM) movement is an international, decentralized collective of individuals who form temporary markets where people exchange goods and services without commodification (i.e. no money and no trade). The overarching goal is to foster a sense of community while modeling an alternative economy based on sharing resources, caring for one another, and collectively improving our lives. RRFMs are based on direct action and horizontal organizing principles and are not affiliated with any large organizations or institutions. Anyone can start a RRFM at any time, anywhere. They are often held regularly but may also occur as pop-up events.

WHAT ITEMS DO YOU ACCEPT?

Please see our full list of acceptable and unacceptable items.

WHAT HAPPENS TO ITEMS AFTER THE MARKET?

After the market, items are either distributed among community members, stored in organizers' homes until the next market, or donated to local partner organizations.

I DON'T SEE AN ITEM I NEED – CAN I MAKE A REQUEST?

Yes! Please visit the info table and fill out our request form. We will send out a collective list of needs before the next market. For time-sensitive needs, please reach out or talk to us directly.

CAN I MAKE A REQUEST FOR LABOR?

Absolutely! Fill out the request form as normal and simply describe your labor needs. Some projects we have done in the past include building a dog fence, replacing a roof, gardening, building wooden crates, a meal train, and ride shares.

WHERE DO I SEND RRFM QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS?

For any additional questions, suggestions, or words of encouragement, please reach out to mutualaid@acadiaaction.org