



A woman with a wide smile, a cane, and a cool hat shared, “I only moved to Yellow Springs about five years ago. But it didn’t take long to feel at home. And this place, these people here? It’s like a tribe.”

A diner explained how meals are brought to kids at the Bryan Center: “Kids show up there after school. Most of them would go home to an empty house this time of day, so it’s a safe place for them to be. They come there to play, but first—they \*gotta\* do their homework. That’s the rule. Then they get to play. And twice a week, they get real food from here. Real food. And for a lotta them? That’s the best meal they’ll have all week. And that’s because of \*this\* place. People need to know that!”

One gentleman was tall and lanky. His eyes were sharp and bright. “Oh, you don’t want to hear my story,” he said. “You’d need an hour.” Then he paused, and said, “But I’ll tell you this. I’ve lived in Yellow Springs all my 65 years. It’s home. And this place? This place is wonderful. The food is great.”

One of the regulars openly shared about her life, then stopped to catch her breath. “I’m in AA, so I talk a lot,” she said, grinning. “I live with a bunch of folks who got mental disabilities—real ones. They can’t take care of themselves, not really. And look, some days I just don’t feel like cookin’. That’s why I take these home.” She motioned toward the stack of to-go dinners on the counter. “It helps.”

A man came by from a small church in town. He’d come to talk with Carl and Jim about partnering up—trying to figure out how their congregation could pitch in. “We don’t have a lot of resources,” he said, “but we want to help.” He added, “The food here is just... so good. Seriously. It’s not just that it’s hot or that it’s free. It’s \*good.\* Some of the best food these folks get all week. And sometimes it’s stuff they’ve never had before.”

A father who works and volunteers in Yellow Springs brought his two kids in and shared, “I’ve only been coming a few weeks but as a single dad, this is such a comfort—to have a night or two a week where I don’t have to do everything myself. And the kids just love the buzz of this place.”