

Fuel Up Perry Harrison Annual Report 2011



A backpack food program at
Perry Harrison School in
Pittsboro, North Carolina

About Fuel Up at Perry Harrison School

In an effort spearheaded by Board of Education member Holly Duncan in 2007, Chatham County Schools teamed with school and community partners to ensure that students in need have food at times when school is not in session.

During the 2007-2008 school year, a program called "Fuel Up" began in three Chatham County Schools: Siler City Elementary, Moncure School and Virginia Cross School. In the spring of 2008, a small group of Perry Harrison School parents decided to bring this program to Perry Harrison School as well.

The Fuel Up food program was created to provide bags of food to students (anonymously and discreetly) to meet their nutritional needs during weekends and breaks in the regular school year months. Food is provided through donations only; no tax dollars are spent on the program. For a regular weekend, the backpacks contain three dinners, two lunches, two breakfasts and two snacks. With the exception of the fresh fruit that is provided each week, the food is shelf-stable; and a child would be able to prepare most of, if not all, the items him- or herself.

How the program works:

1. Students are chosen to participate in the program by the school Guidance Counselor based on self-reporting, recommendations by teachers and/or recommendations from the school Social Worker.
2. Food donations and monetary contributions are collected from Perry Harrison School families and from the community. (Monetary contributions purchase food to supplement what is donated by the community)
3. Each Wednesday, the bags are packed by volunteers and given to homeroom teachers. They discreetly place bags in the students' backpacks, which the students take home on Thursday afternoons (allowing an extra day if a child is absent).
4. Students return the bags to school on Mondays so that they may be re-packed.



Cost to feed a child each weekend:

- One weekend = \$15
- One month = \$60
- One quarter = \$125
- One semester = \$250
- One school year = \$500

A Message from the Director

Community Partners Feeding Children

2011 was a great year for Fuel Up at Perry Harrison School, thanks to a dedicated group of volunteers, excellent community support from organizations like Carolina Meadows Community Grants Program, the Chapel of the Cross ABC Subcommittee, and all of the private donors whose support we are fortunate to have.

As anticipated, we continued to expand our program in 2011, serving up to **51** children during the school year, and **40** children in our 2011 Summer Gap program.

Additionally, we partnered with CORA and other backpack food programs in the community to order food in bulk from the "Project Preserve" food bank, which allowed us to purchase shelf-stable milk boxes and food items at or below cost. This coordinated effort allowed us to stretch donated funds even further.

We remain grateful for all who work with us to help reduce the number of hungry children in our community. Thank you!

Sarah Blake Finigan

Executive Director, Fuel Up at Perry Harrison School

Events & Summer Program

CanStruction

In April 2011, we held the third annual Fuel Up food Drive and CanStruction Contest. The grade that collected the most food "won" the privilege of building a CanStruction in the school's lobby with all of the cans collected during the drive.

689 total items were collected during this year's canned food drive, which was four more cans than were contributed in the 2010 drive -- all the more impressive, considering that last year's totals came from Middle School students as well. Every grade at Perry Harrison School, from Pre-K to 5th grade, contributed cans! The grade level that donated the most cans was Second Grade, with a total of 162 cans.

Summer Gap Program

2011 marks the second Summer Gap program. This summer we served 41 students, thanks to all of the generous families who helped shop for food and delivered bags to school each week, the people who grew and shared copious amounts of fresh garden vegetables and fruit each week, and the children in church and Scout groups who collected supplemental food on our behalf. Participation was meaningful for both the "adoptive families" and the children who received bags of food each week:

- Once again, 100% of the families who "adopted" bags for the summer said they were glad they had done so! One participant remarked, "We were richly blessed by this opportunity to participate in caring for a child in our community."
- One of the program participants' parents wrote a note: "Things have been tough this summer. Without this help, I don't know how she would have eaten some days."

Chapel Hill Giving Party

Once again, Fuel Up at Perry Harrison School was lucky enough to be a designated charity at the Chapel Hill Giving Party on December 1, 2011. Nearly \$4000 from single donors was raised in three hours from an enthusiastic group. As in years past, the Giving Party continues to give by raising awareness of backpack food programs and providing the spark for new programs.

Financial Report

Fuel Up at Perry Harrison is a non-profit organization with 501c3 status granted by the IRS. With grants, personal monetary contributions and donated food and gift cards, Fuel Up Perry Harrison was able to provide delicious and nutritious food throughout 2011 without gaps due to school breaks or vacations.

2011 Financial Report Summary	
Revenues	
Chapel of the Cross ABC Fund	2,000
Carolina Meadows Community Grant Program	7,500
Chapel Hill Giving Party (Private Donations)	3,900
Private Donations	1,100
Total Revenue	14,500
Expenditures	
Food Purchases	21,150
Sport packs, containers & supplies	250
Total Expenditures	21,400
<i>Operating Surplus</i>	-6,900

Fuel Up PHS Organization

Executive Director

Sarah Blake Finigan

Officers

Jennifer Buckmire

Terri Fannin

Nancy Fahrbach

Mary Beth Grealey

Board of Directors

Dan Barnwell

Kimberly Brooks-Harris

Kim Kylstra

Debbie McKenzie

Sally Maslansky

Volunteers

Ashley Barnes, Carie Barnes, Christa Barnett, Avis Bell, Barbara Benjamin, Heather Benjamin, Jennifer Buckmire, Michelle California-Aguiar, Jaime Detzi, Amy Dowden, Tammie Eddins, Catherine Ellis, John & Kat Godehn, Nancy Fahrbach, Terri Fannin, Linda Fearrington, Ashley Frost, Emily Geizer, Eddie & Sarah Goyea, Mary Beth Grealey, Kathleen Hunter, Vanessa Kennedy, Bill Koeb, Tammy Lee, Connie & Ed McCraw, Becket McGough, Geri Mattson, Melissa Merchant, Debbie Meyer, Krista Millard, Heather Millis, Tiffany Pryor, Courtney Ritter, Pete Rubinas, Rachel Ruvo, Kristan Shimpi, Jennifer Sipe, Lisa Skumpija, Betsy Szczypinski, Carol Terrell, Amy Trayes, Amy Wiley

Perry Harrison School

Janice Frazier - Principal

Leann Munoz and Kimberly Harris - Intake Coordinators

Please contact

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