

Annual Report 2012

Fuel Up at Perry Harrison School



A backpack food program at Perry Harrison School in Pittsboro, NC

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. For a regular weekend, the backpacks contain three dinners, two lunches, two breakfasts and two snacks. (Additional food is provided for long weekends and extended breaks from school.) 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.

Food provided to program participants is either donated by members of the community or is purchased using grant money or grocery store gift cards and funds donated by members of the community.

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 their bags to school on Mondays so that they may be re-packed.

Cost to feed a child each weekend:

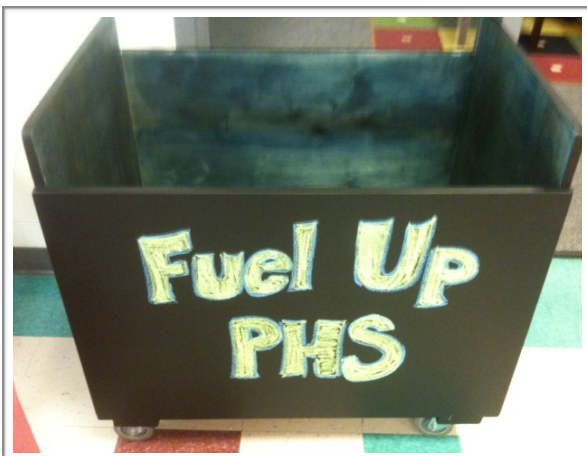
One weekend = \$15

One month = \$60

One quarter = \$125

One semester = \$250

One school year = \$500



A Message From the Director

Community Partners Feeding Children

2012 was another successful year for Fuel Up at Perry Harrison School, thanks to a dedicated group of volunteers and a generous and supportive community.

We feel very fortunate to have the partners we rely on to sustain our organization: Carolina Meadows Community Grants Program, whose generous financial support makes many of our food purchases possible; the Chapel of the Cross ABC Subcommittee, whose grant allowed us to provide fresh food for participants in our Summer Gap program; CORA, who facilitates bulk orders for all area weekend backpack programs from the Project Preserve Food Bank, allowing us to stretch donated funds further; and all of the private donors and volunteers whose support we are so fortunate to have.

Another VERY important partnership is the one between Jennifer Buckmire and me. In 4th Quarter 2012, she assumed responsibility as the Program Coordinator for Fuel Up at PHS. Jen has served as the Lead Shopper and an Officer on our Board of Directors for the last two years, and has been an active volunteer since the first year of the program. As a committed volunteer with boundless energy, she is already doing a fantastic job of coordinating our weekly packing sessions and special events!

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

2012 Events and Summer Gap Program

Fuel Up and Dance

Instead of holding our annual CanStruction event, a retiring teacher asked if she could host a “Fuel Up and Dance” fundraiser as her going-away party. While we love our CanStruction tradition, we thought this sounded like fun: Ms. Mensah recruited a DJ to volunteer for the event, and planned an evening of food and dancing in the school’s Multi-Purpose Room. Canned goods to be donated to Fuel Up at PHS were requested for admission, and attendees clearly had lots of fun.

We will miss Ms. Mensah’s creativity and generosity, and wish her well in her retirement.

Summer Gap Program

2012 was the third year of our Summer Gap program. This special project allows us to continue to provide food for our program's participants in the Summer months, when school meal assistance programs are not available, and when many participants find our program most beneficial.

Families in the community "adopt" a bag for the summer, and drop off bags of prescribed food items at school each week. Funds granted by the Chapel of the Cross Episcopal Church allowed us to purchase milk and other fresh foods; and other volunteers delivered fresh vegetables to help supplement the food provided each week. This meant a week's worth of food for each of the program's participants was available every Wednesday of the Summer Break!

Feedback from the 29 Summer Gap participants’ parents was humbling. They were so appreciative of the bags full of food and garden veggies provided for them each week, and of the supplemental items we were able to purchase with our granted funds.

Feedback from families who “adopted” bags was also overwhelmingly positive. One volunteer remarked, "This is a really meaningful project for our family for our family to participate in. It makes our children feel important to know they can help make a difference in their community just by helping shop for the food each week!"

Fall Food Drive and Stack Up Event

The Fuel Up Fall Food Drive was held the week of November 15, and was a great success due to our Physical Education instructor's creativity: Coach Sipe enlisted PHS students to participate in the World Speed Stacking Event (WSSA,) and asked everyone to "Stack Up to Stock Up" -- That is, to bring canned goods for Fuel Up to practice speed stacking with. This effort generated 631 cans of food, along with 103 juice boxes or snack items..

Chapel Hill Giving Party

In December, Fuel Up at PHS was honored to be selected as a designated charity at the 2012 Chapel Hill Giving Party.

This event not only raises awareness about organizations in our community, it provides the spark for new programs and new volunteers for those organizations. We enjoyed talking with so many interesting people who were excited about what we're doing, and raised \$3,200 for our organization in just three hours!

Holiday Box Project

Based on the success of our Summer Gap program, we asked volunteers to "adopt" boxes for the Winter Break. They were given a child's grade and gender, then asked to shop for a list of prescribed food items for that child. Between the shelf-stable items "adoptive families" were asked to purchase, fresh food and milk purchase with granted funds, fresh sweet potatoes and collards provided by Farmer FoodShare, and all the "bonus items" people so generously donated, there was ample food for the entire Winter Break for each of the 43 program participants!

Many of these boxes were given in honor of friends and family members as alternative Hanukkah or Christmas gifts, including the following:

Her fifth grade class, in honor of Terri Fannin

The Holland Family, in honor of Terri Fannin

The Lewis Family, in honor of Vivian Buhrman, Sheila Stillman, and Shawna Herbst

John and Skinner McGee, in celebration of their family

Wayland and Judy Ramage, in honor of William and Norma Ramage

Andy And Rachel Ruvo, in honor of Dr. Frost, Dr. Sacco, Dr. Serlo and Dr. Vandersea

Anne Taylor, in honor of Donna O'Rourke



2012 Financial Report

2012 Revenues	
Chapel of the Cross ABC Fund	\$1500
Carolina Meadows Community Grants Program	\$7500
Chapel Hill Giving Party (private donations)	3200
Glaxo SmithKline Foundation	\$100
Other Private Donations	\$2505
TOTAL REVENUE	\$14,805
Expenditures (food purchases)	\$20,646
Operating Surplus	-\$5841

Fuel Up at Perry Harrison School is a non-profit organization with 501(c)(3) status granted by the IRS. With grants, personal monetary contributions and donated food and gift cards, Fuel Up at Perry Harrison School was able to provide delicious and nutritious food throughout 2012 without gaps due to holidays or breaks from school.

Fuel Up at Perry Harrison School 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

Jennifer Adams, Ashley Barnes, Carie Barnes, Christa Barnett, Avis Bell, Sally Bond, Heather Benjamin, Jennifer Buckmire, Michelle California-Aguiar, Donna Delano, Jaime Detzi, Pam Dominick, Amy Dowden, Tammie Eddins, Catherine Ellis, Linda Fearington, Sarah Blake Finigan, Ashley Frost, Emily Geizer, John & Kat Godehn, Eddie & Sarah Goyea, Mary Beth Grealey, Vanessa Kennedy, Sharon LaPalme, Tammy Lee, Connie & Ed McCraw, Becket McGough, Geri Mattson, Debbie Meyer, Krista Millard, Heather Millis, Amy Mitchell, Leann Muñoz, Tiffany Pryor, Courtney Ritter, Tara & Pete Rubinas, Rachel Ruvo, Katie Schectman, Hilda Scull, Lauren Shepler, Jennifer Sipe, Lisa Skumpija, Betsy Szczypinski, Carol Terrell, Amy Wiley

Perry Harrison School

Janice Frazier - Principal through July 2012

Freda Hicks - Principal July 2012 to present

Leann Muñoz and Kimberly Harris - Intake Coordinators

Please Contact

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