

# About Fuel Up at Perry Harrison School

### A History of Fuel Up in Chatham County:

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 discretely) 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 supple ment what is donated by the community)
- 3. Each Wednesday, the bags are packed by volunteers and given to homeroom teach ers. They discretely 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



Box of food for Holiday Break

# Assistant Program Coordinator Report

It has certainly been an exciting challenge to determine how to best meet the need for a Fuel Up program at Perry Harrison School, and to build the framework for a reliable, sustainable program. The greatest challenge for the Fuel Up Committee has not been working out the logistics of menu planning, shopping, bag packing and bag distribution, however. Rather, it has been adapting well to a changing economy, where demand for the program is growing, while food donations are diminishing.

The fundraising strategy has had to be dynamic, as it is shaped by this community's concerns about the economy and their own families' financial security. The greatest reward for the Fuel Up Committee is surely seeing the generosity of this community, and knowing that these efforts have made a difference.

- Sarah Blake Finigan, Asst. Program Director



Food donated to the Fuel Up program

## **Progress**

#### **Effectiveness of the Program**

In an initial survey, 100% of parents of the students enrolled in Fuel Up reported that their child's privacy was being protected with regard to their participation in the program. Most of the parents reported that their children love the food they have been receiving from Fuel Up, and many reported that they are able to share some of the food with other family members in the home.

All of the families reported that the Fuel Up program is helping them save money. Parents and teachers also reported seeing positive changes in the students since the program began, especially improved self-esteem, better health/wellness, and improved academic performance. 100% of the families responded that they were glad they enrolled their children in the Fuel Up Program at Perry Harrison.

## Fuel Up at Perry Harrison Timeline 2008

**October 2, 2008** Fuel Up at PHS is launched! The first bags of food are sent home with twenty students.

**October 21, 2008** Thanks to the generosity of donors, the number of children served by Fuel Up increases to 21.

October 30, 2008 The number of children served by Fuel Up increases to 22.

November 10, 2008 The number of children served by Fuel Up increases to 23.

**November 10, 2008** Fuel Up at Perry Harrison School receives a grant from the Carolina Meadows Community Grant Program. The grant period runs from December 15, 2008 to December 15, 2009.

**December 4, 2008** Fuel Up at Perry Harrison School participates in the 2008 Chapel Hill Giving Party. Contributions made to Fuel Up at the Giving Party allow four additional children to be added to the program, in time to receive food for the 16-day Holiday Break from school. Thanks to the generosity of donors, the number of children served by Fuel Up increases to 27.

# **Financial Report**

Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church (CITPPC) serves as the fiscal agent for Fuel Up at Perry Harrison, which allows Fuel Up to accept tax-deductible contributions, and provides financial accountability for the volunteer-run organization. Both donations of food and monetary donations help sustain Fuel Up at Perry Harrison School.

2008 Financial Report Summary	
Revenues	
Carolina Meadows Community Grant Program	10,000
Giving Party Fundraiser	1,305
Private Donations	2,605
Total Revenue	13,910
Expenditures	
Grocery Stores	1,748
Total Expenditures	1,758
Operating Surplus	12,152



Chapel Hill Giving Party 2008

# **Fuel Up Organization**

#### **Program Coordinators**

Michelle Morehouse Sarah Blake Finigan

#### **Perry Harrison School**

Valgean Mitchell - Principal Nancy Fahrbach, Sonia Logan, Kim Harris - Intake Coordinators

#### **Volunteers**

Jennifer Buckmire, Catherine Ellis, Lisa Lackmann, Becket McGough, Terri Fannin, Mary Beth Grealey

#### **Financials**

Kim Pendergrast

Please contact Michelle Morehouse at mmorehouse@oaknut.com or Sarah Blake Finigan at sb.finigan@gmail.com.

www.fuelupkids.org

2008 Annual Report