

Annual Report 2013

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

2013 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 had served as the Lead Shopper and an Officer on our Board of Directors for the preceding two years, and has been an active volunteer since the first year of the program. As a committed volunteer with boundless energy, she is doing a fantastic job of coordinating our weekly packing sessions and special events. In the 2014-2015 school year, she will take over as Director of Fuel Up at PHS, as my husband has accepted a new position in his company that will require relocation. I will remain connected to Fuel Up and to this community even after we move away.

Meanwhile, Jen and I 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

2013 Events and Summer Gap Program

Spring Food Drive and CanStruction Contest

Since they collected more cans for Fuel Up at PHS than any other grade during our Spring Food Drive, our Kindergarten classes won the privilege of building a CanStruction in the school's lobby. That made for a lively afternoon of learning about nutrition, voluntarism, and how much fun it is to build with cans!

In order to manage the number of Kindergarteners who stayed to help (almost 60!), we divided them into groups of 11-12 for each of the 5 different stations they rotated through:

- Learning about voluntarism and doing word puzzle activities
- Sorting donated cans by color and size (a great Kindergarten Math activity) and shuttling them to the building area
- Learning about nutrition and sampling local sweet collards and apples with Gini from Farmer FoodShare
- A craft station where each child made and decorated a link for the anchor's chain
- Taking turns actually building the CanStruction

The end result of the controlled chaos was the super-cool CanStruction featured on the front of this report.

Summer Gap Program

2013 was the fourth 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 22 Summer Gap participants' parents was overwhelmingly positive, as was feedback for the 20 families who "adopted" bags for the summer. It's hard to say who appreciated the program more: The people who made this a special family project for the summer, or the children who received the bags each week. Either way, we're glad it was a positive experience for both the recipients and the providers!

Fall Festival at Cedar Grove UMC

In November, members of Cedar Grove UMC hosted an awesome community event to benefit Fuel Up at PHS: There was a bouncy house for the children, a bluegrass band for everyone to enjoy, and a dedicated group of churchmen who had been up half the night preparing amazingly tender grilled chicken..and did I mention the cupcakes? There was literally a wall lined with tables, each with a different flavor cupcake to tempt even the most disciplined eaters.

Despite an ominous weather forecast, the rain held off, and it was a great afternoon of food and fellowship, all to benefit Fuel Up at PHS -- What an honor for our organization!

Chapel Hill Giving Party

In December, Fuel Up at PHS was honored to be selected as a designated charity at the 2013 Chapel Hill Giving Party, which is our favorite way to kick off the "Season of Giving," and not just because we've been fortunate enough to be included as one of the charitable organizations promoted at the event! First of all, these hostesses (Mary Beth Grealey, Perri Kersh, Casey Saussy and Sue Egnoto) are truly inspiring -- They are busy wives/Moms/professionals who not only throw great parties, but who are also deeply committed to community service. Second, it's really exciting to participate in a gathering of organizations in our area who are working hard to try to improve life in our community. Third, it's uplifting to talk with all of the party's guests: interesting people who have come to give -- time, advice, financial support -- to community organizations that resonate with them. All in all, it's a total "feel-good" event! Fuel Up at PHS raised about \$2150 in three hours, which allowed us to add more children before the Winter Break.

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, 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. Here are some of the gifts that were given in honor of very special people:

Eric Brantley & Debbie Meyer - each in honor of the other

The Cuicchi/Hagan Family - in honor of Paul & Rosemary Cuicchi and Christine Cuicchi

The Hartman family - in honor of Dennis McAvey & Carolyn Hartman, Ron & Sara Boardman and Barry & Diane Hensley

Robert & Peggy Nelson's Forever Rely on God (FROG) Fund administered by the NC Community Foundation - in celebration of their family

John & Sue Newell - in honor of Connie & Ed McCraw

Rachel & Andy Ruvo - in honor of Andy's partners David Frost, Deb Sacco, Adam Serlo and Brian Vandersea

The Terrell Family - in honor of Mr. & Mrs. Clay Thorp & their family

Stacey Yusko - in appreciation for Mary Beth Grealey's dedication to Meals on Wheels



2013 Financial Report

2013 Revenues	
Chapel of the Cross ABC Fund	\$1000
Carolina Meadows Community Grants Program	\$6500
Chapel Hill Giving Party (private donations)	\$2150
Other Private Donations	\$7,856
TOTAL REVENUE	\$17,506
Expenditures (food purchases)	\$14,887
Operating Surplus	\$2,619

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 2013 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

DebbieMcKenzie

SallyMaslansky

Volunteers

Jennifer Adams, Ashley Barnes, Christa Barnett, Avis Bell, Kristina Berly, Heather Benjamin, Mandy Bowen, Jennifer Bowman, Jennifer Buckmire, Michelle California-Aguiar, Frank & Chesley Cuicchi, Donna Delano, Erin Denniston, Jaime Detzi, Jason Dell, Pam Dominick, Amy Dowden, Tammie Eddins, Catherine Ellis, Sabrina Evans, Linda Fearington, Sarah Blake Finigan, Jimmy & Christina Ford, Ashley Frost, Emily Geizer, John & Kat Godehn, Eddie & Sarah Goyea, Mary Beth Grealey, Clara A. Missy Hagan, Lisa & Scott Hartman, Kate House, Kay Irish, Fiona Kapilovic, Vanessa Kennedy, Perri Kersh, Dave Klein, Tammy Lee, Charlie & Martha Lewis, Tonya Lippard, Connie & Ed McCraw, Becket McGough, Michael McGregor, Joy McKeon, Geri Mattson, Debbie Meyer, Krista Millard, Heather Millis, Amy Mitchell, Leann Muñoz, Tracy Platt, Tiffany Pryor, Judy & Wayland Ramage, Courtney Ritter, Tara & Pete Rubinas, Rachel Ruvo, David & Casey Saussy, Katie Schectman, Jamie & Erick Swaine, Hilda Scull, Lauren Shepler, Jennifer Sipe, Lisa Skumpija, Betsy Szczypinski, Carol Terrell, Ann Waller, Amy Wiley

Perry Harrison School

Freda Hicks - Principal

Leann Muñoz and Dawn Williams - Intake Coordinators

Please Contact

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