

# 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:

- 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 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



Box of food for Holiday Break

### Message from the Director

2010 was an especially exciting year for our organization. In addition to electing a group of talented professionals to serve as a Board of Directors, Fuel Up at Perry Harrison School was awarded 501(c)(3) Public Charity status by the IRS.

We also expanded our program to provide a much-needed "Summer Gap" program, which made large bags of food available each week during the 10-week Summer Vacation from school. The Summer Gap program allowed us to partner with the Fearrington Farmers Market FoodShare Program, which helped ensure that excellent-quality fresh fruits and vegetables were part of each week's offerings.

Another highlight was planning the "Mustang Meals" weekend food program for Margaret Pollard Middle School. The program was ready to serve the 6th-8th grade students from Perry Harrison School and North Chatham School when they opened the doors on January 3rd, 2011.

Since we began Fuel Up at Perry Harrison School in Fall 2008, the number of children we serve has more than doubled! Because demand for "Fuel Up" has followed the economic trend in our state, the increased need for this food assistance program has not been a great surprise. What has been amazing is that this community has been so generous – in this tough economic climate – and that you have all helped Fuel Up at Perry Harrison School meet that need.

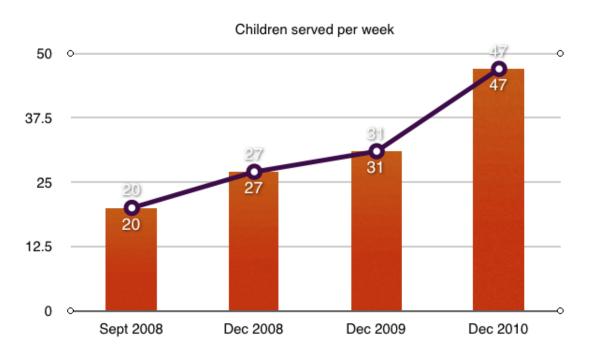
Many thanks to our Board of Directors, to foundations such as Carolina Meadows' Community Grants Program and The Chapel of the Cross ABC Subcommittee, and to the individual donors and volunteers who continue to partner with us in reducing the number of hungry children in our community. We are very fortunate to have your support – Thank you!

Sincerely,

Sarah Blake Finigan

Executive Director, Fuel Up at Perry Harrison School

### **Progress**



### Summer Gap Program

Fuel Up at Perry Harrison School's first Summer Gap program was a great success! Twenty-five children who otherwise would not have had adequate nutrition this summer received grocery bags full of food each week.

At the beginning of the summer program, people agreed to "adopt" one or more bags for the summer. A "Master Shopping List" of shelf-stable foods was sent to each of the "adoptive families" so that they would be able to shop all at once if they preferred; then a weekly list was sent each Friday during the summer program. "Adoptive families" dropped bags full of the prescribed food off at the Perry Harrison School office each Wednesday morning. Volunteers then added foods that were purchased with grant money along with produce donated by local farmers to each bag, and set up coolers full of fresh foods like milk, eggs, cheese and deli meat. Participants were able to pick their bags up in the school office each Wednesday afternoon. If they lacked transportation or had work schedules that did not allow them to pick up bags during school office hours, volunteers delivered the bags to them.

Parents of the children who participated in the program were very appreciative of the food they received, as well as the "bonus items" like activity books, games, outdoor toys and school supplies that "adoptive families" included for their children. It was obvious that a great deal of love and care went into the bags each week along with the food.

100% of the "Adoptive families" said they were glad that they had participated in the Fuel Up Summer Gap Program (whew!). Many even asked to be signed up to do it again next year! Volunteers were pleased to be able to help reduce the number of hungry children in our community in such a direct and meaningful way, and Fuel Up at Perry Harrison School is extremely grateful to the volunteers who faithfully served these children each week.

## **Financial Report**

In 2010, Fuel Up at Perry Harrison became 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 2010 without gaps due to school breaks or vacations.

2010 Financial Report Summary	
Revenues	
Carolina Meadows Community Grant Program	10,000
The Chapel of the Cross ABC Sale Subcommittee	1,000
Giving Party Fundraiser	2,200
Private Donations	5,049
Total Revenue	18,249
Expenditures	
Food	15,292
IRS Incorporation (earmarked contribution)	850
Supplies	167
Total Expenditures	16,309
Operating Surplus	1,940
In-kind donation of food/giftcards	9177

### Monetary gifts made to Fuel Up in Honor Of:

Colleen & David Anderson Mary & Buck Anderson Betty & Blake Aydett Eric Brantley

Barbara & Roger Cooley Bob & Joanne Flower

Dave Frost "Father Jim" Debbie Meyer Donna O'Rourke Joy Phillips

The co-workers of Susan Phillips Wayland & Norma Ramage

Deb Sacco

Barbara & Allen Saunders

Adam Serlo Brian Vandersea Clara & Billy Wellons

## **Fuel Up 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**

Sireatta Atwater, Ashley Barnes, Avis Bell, Barbara Benjamin, Heather Benjamin, Jennifer Buckmire, Michelle California-Aguiar, Catherine Ellis, Nancy Fahrbach, Terri Fannin, Mary Beth Grealey, Terry Hamlet, Tambria Lee, Susan Levy, Connie & Ed McCraw, Becket McGough, Julie Malloy, Melissa Merchant, Debbie Meyer, Krista Millard, Heather Millis, Jen Morris, Courtney Ritter, Pete Rubinas, Rachel Ruvo, Kristan Shimpi, Liz Sullivan, Betsy Szczypinski, Carol Terrell, Barrie Trinkle, Rita VanDuinen, Lynda Williams

#### **Perry Harrison School**

Janice Frazier - Principal
Nancy Fahrbach and Kimberly Harris - Intake Coordinators

### **Please contact**

Sarah Blake Finigan at sb.finigan@gmail.com

www.fuelupkids.org

2010 Annual Report