

WEST WINDSOR-PLAINSBORO SEND HUNGER PACKING PROGRAM



Dear Community Member,

YOU CAN HELP! Send Hunger Packing is a partnership between the Mercer Street Friends Food Bank and the schools in the West Windsor- Plainsboro Regional School District. While we are a thriving community, we overlook the over 175 children in grades K-6 who qualify for free or reduced price meals. For many of these children, the weekends bring the prospect of empty stomachs and hunger. About 338,690 children are at risk in New Jersey meaning they may not have had breakfast.

THERE IS HOPE!

The SHuP Program helps to close the nourishment gap by providing two easy-to-open, nutritionally balanced morning meals and two healthy lunch/dinners for the weekend. These meals, put into students' **backpacks on Friday afternoons**, keep children from being hungry allowing them to return to school nourished and ready to learn. The program is run through **Mercer Street Friends which is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization**. We look for any way that you can help partner with us. If you would like to help or get involved please contact me: Mhager27@aol.com

Regards,

Melissa Hager

Feedback from the professionals regarding SHuP WW-P

It is a great program. The happy faces of a few of the children getting the food are so worthwhile. One boy was so happy to get peanut butter one week. Another child said she really liked the oatmeal. The comments from the children were the best.

Moira Jean Healey BSN, RN, CSN
Nurse, Wicoff Elementary School

I have found this program to be very successful. 70% of our eligible families participated this year and none have dropped out. One mother I have spoken to personally finds the program very helpful in making ends meet. She especially appreciates the fruit cups and applesauce which is a treat for her family.

I believe it is truly worth the effort to offer this program to these families. I do alter some of the bags to accommodate food allergies and vegetarian families. It is great that the food is sent directly home with the children because so many of these working families lack transportation and cannot take time off from work to avail themselves of many services in school. All of my students seem happy to get their bag on Fridays.

Alice Guest, RN, CSN
Nurse, Town Center Elementary School

The Send Hunger Packing program has been positive for my students. They are always here on Friday mornings, and we now have our routine down. Some of them make sure they come with a younger sibling, and help them put it in their backpack. They comment on their favorite foods, mac & cheese, or chocolate cookies, and always say thank you. I find that these are some of my kindest students. I am grateful that we can offer this support to them.

It has made a difference for my students and I hope we can continue it next year. A big thank you to Mercer Street Friends for their assistance to us. Thanks,

Geraldine Barber
Nurse, Dutch Neck Elementary School