



BULLDOG BAGS, INC. UPDATE

a 501(c)(3) non profit organization addressing food insecurity in the Stow-Munroe Falls (OH) City School District

FOOD and PERSONAL CARE ITEM DRIVES

The collection of food and personal care items helps to keep the cost of a Bulldog Bag manageable. In November, the Boston Heights Police Department, in conjunction with COSTCO, held a "FILL THE CRUISER," with the majority of the items being donated to **Bulldog Bags, Inc.** The event was such a success that not just one cruiser was filled, but THREE were filled!! The individual-sized items were added to the inventory to be included in Bulldog Bags; the larger-sized items were added to the new Bulldog Closet at the High School to help families in extreme need!

WHAT AN AMAZING EFFORT!



"Fill The Cruiser" by Boston Hts. Police Dept. at COSTCO 11/10/19



A student told her elementary counselor..."I love my BAG; it's the only thing that I know is mine, and it makes me HAPPY!"

HAPPY 4TH ANNIVERSARY

On January 29, 2016, the first Bulldog Bags were packed and delivered to grades K-4. Since that time, **Bulldog Bags, Inc.** has expanded to Pre-K through grade 10, added eligible home-schooled and on-line academy students, added Bulldog Cupboards at the middle and high schools, provides Bulldog Boxes in the summer in family-sized portions to registered families, added more food in middle and high school bags, and stocks a Bulldog Closet at the HS for families in extreme need as identified by staff. **Thank you to all who made this possible!**



90 SECOND SHOPPING SPREE AT STOW ACME

Tickets are still being sold for the **2nd Annual 90 Second Shopping Spree**; winning ticket will be drawn at the first packing in 2020 and the actual **Shopping Spree** will take place on Saturday, January 25, 2020 at 10 a.m. Tickets are \$10.00 each; **YOU CAN EMAIL bulldogbags44224@gmail.com** and we will get tickets to you.

Proceeds stay in the greater community to address food insecurity in the children in the SMFCSD, making the children the REAL WINNERS!

UPCOMING EVENTS



TEXAS ROADHOUSE Fundraiser, Thurs., January 23, 2020; time to be announced

Texas Roadhouse will donate 10% of the sales during the period to **Bulldog Bags, Inc.** *Flyer is needed for **Bulldog Bags, Inc.** to get credit. The time and flyer will be posted on FB and www.bulldogbags.org*

WATCH BULLDOG BAGS, INC.'s Facebook page and its web site for information on more FUNDRAISERS!


vol-un-ter: A person who freely offers to take part in a task; they are not paid, because their time is so precious that a value cannot be assigned to it!

WANT TO GET INVOLVED or JUST GET INFO?

As an all-volunteer organization, **Bulldog Bags, Inc.** is dependent on people from the greater community to stay apprised of what's going on with the organization, as well as to serve on committees. If you'd like to receive our e-newsletter and/or let us know of your interest in becoming involved, please provide your **CONTACT INFORMATION** at www.bulldogbags.org/get-involved

WHAT'S IN A BULLDOG BAG?

Are you curious about how the contents of a Bulldog Bag are determined? The Menu/Purchasing Committee plans the Menus of items to be included in Bulldog Bags for the school year. The menus are planned to take the place of the breakfasts and lunches that the children receive at school, plus snacks for the weekend. All Bags include entrée items, breakfast items, and snack items, plus fresh fruit, to give the children a variety of choices on the weekend. The planners have three competing goals for the menus: keeping items healthy, keeping items calorie-dense, and keeping the items affordable. We try to keep Bags as healthy as we can by including fruit, granola bars, canned tuna or chicken, instant oatmeal, and shelf-stable milk, when it is available. Peanut butter or any items with nuts, although a good source of protein, are not included due to possible allergies in the children. Other than fresh fruit, all items are non-perishables; we would like to include fresh veggies, but refrigeration is an issue. The food in a Bulldog Bag is individual-sized, easily opened and usually can be prepared by the children.

For children in homes with limited resources, there is often not money for snacks, so the children look forward to them in their Bulldog Bags! Last school year an elementary counselor reported this from a Bulldog Bag recipient "I ate the rice crispy treat I got from bulldog bags and knew I was loved!" 

With the large number of Bags that are prepared and distributed, it is not possible to accommodate food allergies, but **Bulldog Bags, Inc.** does post on its Facebook page information from *The Celiac and Allergy Friendly Food Initiative* that maintains a pantry of allergy-friendly foods and distribution times for eligible families.

At the end of the school year, **Bulldog Bags, Inc.** sends home surveys for the children and parents to fill out where they have an opportunity to express their likes and dislikes about the items included in the Bulldog Bags.

Again, kudos to the Bulldog Bags, Inc. Menu/Purchasing Committee!

We want students to show up Monday mornings hungry for LEARNING, not hungry for food!

....SPEAKING OF SNACKS

10. Draw a picture or write a story **BELOW** showing how you feel about Bulldog Bags.

I really love Bulldog Bags. Me and my friends always
when we get bulldog bags, we open them in front of our lockers
and get a snack or two.

DID YOU KNOW?

What an amazing 4 CALENDAR YEARS this has been...as **Bulldog Bags, Inc.** expanded the programs that it provides to address food insecurity in our SMFCSD children, our CORE program, Bulldog Bags, distributed 27,166 weekend bags of food which weighed a total of 94,680 pounds!

....That's a whole lot of love that donors of money and food and our faithful volunteers have provided!



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

YOU can play a pivotal role in improving the lives of children in our community!

- **You** can make a monetary donation; Bulldog Bags, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization and all donations are tax deductible (through the website or through the mail);
- **You** can sponsor 1 child's Bulldog Bags for a year for \$60.00;
- **You** can host a fundraising event, as well as attend Bulldog Bags, Inc. fundraising events;
- **You** can host/support community food drives to help keep the cost Bulldog Bags manageable;
- **You** can volunteer on one of the committees.

SUPPORT FROM THE ENTIRE GREATER COMMUNITY IS INTEGRAL TO BULLDOG BAGS, INC.