



BULLDOG BAGS, INC. UPDATE

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

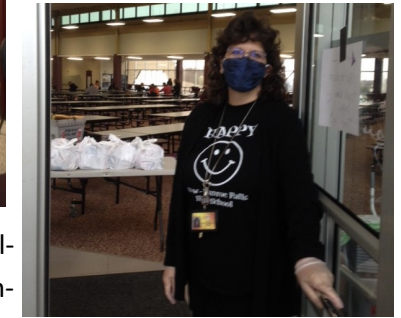
VOLUNTEERS ARE THE HEARTBEAT OF BULLDOG BAGS, INC.



April 19-25 is **NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK**. Our volunteers are in many capacities: some in person, some provide monetary donations, some provide item donations, some through kind words and cheerleading, some in ways of which we are unaware! They are all very important and greatly appreciated!

DISTRIBUTION DURING THE PANDEMIC

The bins of Bulldog Bags are transported to the four schools where the SMFCSD Grab n Go Bags are distributed. School counselors have been on



hand to pass out the Bulldog Bags. Thank you, counselors!

FOOD PROCUREMENT CHALLENGES DURING THE PANDEMIC

With the Stay-at-Home orders to lessen the spread of the corona virus, businesses, churches, and service organizations that have been so faithful in holding drives for food and personal care items that are included in the Bulldog Bags have not been meeting. With them not meeting, the Drives have been almost non-existent.

Shopping at the local retailers has been a challenge, as stores have limited the quantities of items that can be purchased. Also, the supply chains servicing the local retailers have been unable to keep the local retailers stocked, as they usually are.

BULLDOG BAGS DURING THE PANDEMIC

In this time of pestilence, **Bulldog Bags, Inc.** is continuing its schedule to provide weekend bags of food two times a month at the sites that the SMFCSD Grab n Go Bags are distributed. Rather than the large



contingency of volunteers from area businesses, churches, and service organizations, plus the faithful regulars that gather on

Friday mornings to pack, a group of 10 of the regular volunteers with their masks, gloves, and practicing social distancing, gather to pack! It takes a little longer than the usual 45 minutes to pack, but packing takes place in a safe manner!

HAT'S OFF TO THESE DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS!



The bins packed with Bulldog Bags are picked up by a team of 15 regular volunteers and 5 substitute drivers who arrive at Stow City Hall at 10 a.m. and load from 2 to 10 bins into their vehicles; they deliver to their designated schools. At 2:30, the drivers pick up the empty bins and deliver them back to City Hall! These drivers complete their tasks like clockwork!

After the bins full of Bulldog Bags arrive at the schools, they are distributed differently at the 9 schools. The schools can design the distribution system that works best for their individual schools ...all procedures should protect the children's identity! Some schools have retired teachers who volunteer in separating the Bags by number for classroom, others help in distribution to the students.

All procedures prior to and on "Bulldog Bag Days," from the menu planning, purchasing, pick-up, set-up, packing, delivery, and distribution, our volunteers complete their tasks "like a well-oiled machine!" Thank you!

vol-un-teer:

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!

BULLDOG BOXES/SUMMER PROGRAM

Bulldog Boxes is the summer program of Bulldog Bags, Inc. It serves SMF families who are eligible for the Free or Reduced Meal Program, and any SMF families who are finding themselves facing hardship during this pandemic. It is to help the families stretch their food budgets during the summer, when the children are home for all meals.

Bulldog Boxes provide a box of approximately 10 meals/snacks in FAMILY-SIZE portions and they are distributed once a month in June, July, and August. They are limited ONE per household. Pick-up times are Friday: 4 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. or Saturday 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Families MUST register; they can register for all three months or a month at a time; the cut-off to register will be the last day of the month before the Bulldog Box will be distributed.

For more information and to register, go to www.bulldogbags.org/summer-program There is information about the program and the REGISTRATION LINK.

If you have questions, please email:

bulldogbags44224@gmail.com



APPRECIATIVE RECIPIENT

Please write a sentence or two about how you feel about Bulldog Bags.

I feel like they are good for students who don't have much food at home.

SCHOOL YEAR 2020-2021

Bulldog Bags, Inc. is hoping that next school year will see a return to "normalcy" with the packing and distributing Bulldog Bags. We are working on the packing and distribution calendar, as well as the Food/Personal Care Item Schedule.

We will again be using SignUp Genius for volunteer to sign-up to pack. Hopefully, the many businesses, churches, service organizations and individuals who have been such faithful volunteers in past, will continue to be! Hopefully, they will, also, continue to support the Drives that are so important to helping to keep the cost of Bulldog Bags manageable.

And Dine-to-Donates will be scheduled — they are win! win! with no cooking or clean-up, but money is raised to help **Bulldog Bags, Inc.**

At this point in time though, all that is certain is that there is food insecurity in our SMFCSD children that will need to be addressed!

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

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

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

- **You** can volunteer on one of the committees;
- **You** can host/support community food drives to help keep the cost Bulldog Bags manageable;
- **You** can host a fundraising event, as well as attend Bulldog Bags, Inc. fundraising events;
- **You** can sponsor 1 child's Bulldog Bags for a year for \$60.00;
- **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).

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