

BULLDOG BAGS, INC. UPDATE

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

APRIL IS NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH

This newsletter is dedicated to the hundreds of individuals who are giving or have given so generously of their time, their talents, their gifts, and their energy to help this organization address food insecurity in the Stow-Munroe Falls City School District.

The backbone of **Bulldog Bags, Inc.** has been the volunteers who are in many capacities: some in person, some through monetary donations, some through food and in-kind donations, some through kind words and cheering the organization on, and some in ways of which we are unaware! They are all VERY important and appreciated!

VALUE OF A VOLUNTEER HOUR

The current monetary value of a volunteer hour is **\$27.20**, as estimated by *The Independent Sector*. Volunteers in the United States are 63 million strong and hold up the foundation of civil society. They help their neighbors, serve their communities, and provide their expertise. No matter what kind of volunteer work they do, they are contributing in invaluable ways.

Putting numbers to volunteer hours will never do them justice, but it is one way to show the contributions individuals have made in our communities. The estimate helps acknowledge the millions of individuals who dedicate their time, talents, and energy to making a difference. Charitable organizations frequently use this estimate to quantify the enormous value volunteers provide.

WE'VE MISSED YOU!

Oh! How all of the volunteers who filled Stow City Council Chambers on two Fridays of the month, prepandemic, have been missed! Prior to the pandemic, packing days had 25-40 volunteers, including individuals as well as teams from businesses, organizations, and churches, eager to pack Bulldog Bags. The room was teeming with excitement!

During the pandemic to follow the guidelines, packing has been limited to 10 volunteers, besides the set-upcrew. We have been very thankful for those who donned their masks and social distanced, so that Bulldog Bags (and Boxes last summer) could be packed, even though it took a little longer with the smaller crew.

Hopefully, in the Fall, we can return to a larger packling crew and the many faithful, pre-pandemic volunteers will again be packing Bulldog Bags....WE'VE MISSED YOU!

INFORMATION ABOUT REGISTRATION FOR BULLDOG BOXES ON PAGE 2!



BULLDOG BAGS, INC. VOLUNTEERS

Without volunteers donating their time, resources, and passion to the cause of providing supplemental food for children and families, there would be no Bulldog Bags, Inc. The volunteers who provide hands-on work include:

- the board of directors
- the committee chairs: Bulldog Boxes, communications, delivery, evaluation, finance, food-drives, fundraising, governance, menu/purchasing, set-up, volunteers
- the committee members: plan the menus and purchase the food, inventory, carry-out all the work of the committees
- the individuals who help with pick-up of food at the food bank and grocery stores and then who help unload it
- the individuals who help with pre-packing and letter-stuffing
- the individuals who set-up the items on packing day
- the individuals who pack the Bulldog Bags and Bulldog Boxes
- the individuals who pack the Bulldog Bags into the bins
- the individuals who pick up the bins full of Bulldog Bags and deliver them to the schools
- the individuals who help distribute Bulldog Bags in a discreet manner to protect the children's identity
- the individuals who pick up the empty bins and return them to Stow City Hall
- the individuals who drop off the cardboard at the recycling bins

A SPECIAL SHOUT-OUT

Thank you to the

Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity at KSU

for helping with pick-up at the Akron-Canton Regional Food Bank and grocery stores, and unloading at Stow City Hall.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 1-30, Rotary Club of SMF is collecting individual servings of cereal in competition with the Rotary Club of Kent. To help the SMF Club, you can drop off cereal at Stow City Hall or order on line at tinyurl.com/smfwins.

April 18th - 24th, NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK 🎔

April 29, 3 p.m. - 10 p.m. Texas Roadhouse Fundraiser

Texas Roadhouse will donate 10% of food receipts back to Bulldog Bags, Inc. Dine-in, Carry-out, or Curb-side pick-up. Show an electronic or print copy of the flyer available at www.bulldogbags.org/events

May 14, Nothing Bundt Cakes Fundraiser

Nothing Bundt Cakes will donate 20% of their cake sales to Bulldog Bags, Inc.

AMAZON SMILES: If you are shopping on-line at AMAZON, please use <u>www.smile.amazon.com</u> and choose <u>Bulldog</u> <u>Bags, Inc</u>. as your charity, then, when you shop, use <u>www.smile.amazon.com</u> and a small portion of your purchase is donated to <u>Bulldog Bags, Inc</u>.

INTEGRITY Auto Care, 5026 Hudson Drive, 330-689-2100; Through their Integrity Cares program, they will donate 10% of most auto services to Bulldog Bags, Inc., if you designate it as your non-profit.

REGISTRATION FOR BULLDOG BOXES

To help families of children eligible for Bulldog Bags or who are experiencing a crisis that would result in food insecurity to stretch their summer food budgets, Bulldog Boxes provide a box of fresh, frozen, and non-perishable food in FAMILY-SIZED portions one time each month (June 11 and 12, July 9 and 10, and August 6 and 7). The families MUST register at www.bulldogbags.org/summer-program where there is additional information.

FOOD DRIVES FOR BULLDOG BOXES

Just as FOOD DRIVES help Bulldog Bags, they also help Bulldog Boxes, the summer program. If you, your organization or business would like to hold a FOOD DRIVE for Bulldog Boxes, the items being collected are at www.bulldogbags.org/food-drives



As an ALL-VOLUNTEER organization, Bulldog Bags, Inc. is dependent on the greater community to provide the work and the funds to address food insecurity in the children in our community!

- You can volunteer to pack or to serve on one of the committees;
- You can host/support community food drives to help keep the cost Bulldog Bags manageable;
- You can support 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);
- You can designate Bulldog Bags, Inc. for part of your IRA distribution.