



BULLDOG BAGS, INC. UPDATE

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

WRAP UP OF BULLDOG BAGS FOR 2020 - 2021

Due to the hybrid school schedule during school year 2020-2021 *Bulldog Bags, Inc.* could not operate under its original model of packing and distributing Bulldog Bags on Fridays, so that the children could have weekend food to replace the food that they would have received on the Free and Reduced Meal Program. Instead they were packed on Tuesdays, so that all of the eligible children would receive their bags of food during the same week....Bulldog Bags became supplemental food for the children, whenever it was needed.

- 11,112 Bulldog Bags were packed and distributed
- 617 is the average number of Bulldog Bags packed/distributed two times a month
- 18 packings/distributions
- Average of 12 items in a Bulldog Bag
- 40,749# was the total weight of the Bulldog Bags
- \$44,486.19 was spent on the 18 packings (\$2,471.46 average per packing)

Due to the guidelines regarding allowable people in a group, food was set-up and Bulldog Bags were packed by about 12 dedicated volunteers.

Another group of dedicated volunteers delivered an average of 51 bins to the schools each packing (924 bins total for the 18 packings)!

Thank you to all of the volunteers and donors who provided the money and time to help address food insecurity in our SMF students!

BULLDOG BOXES OFF TO A GREAT START

Bulldog Boxes, the summer program of *Bulldog Bags, Inc.*, provides a box of fresh, frozen, and non-perishable food items to families of children who receive Bulldog Bags during the school year to help them stretch their summer food budgets! One box of food in FAMILY-SIZED portions is provided one time a month, June, July and August, to families who register. The Box has 10 meals/snacks. This year the program, which is three years old, has the largest number of registrants ...107 families! Families who qualify can register at www.bulldogbags.org/summer-program

THANK YOU

STOW-MUNROE FALLS ROTARY CLUB

Words could never express the appreciation to the SMF Rotary Club for the support that they have provided to *Bulldog Bags, Inc.* during the pandemic. They topped off their support by holding a friendly competition with the Kent, OH and (accidentally) the Kent, WA Rotary Clubs. What an amazing collection of 2,333 individual containers of cereal were collected to be included in Bulldog Bags! Of the 2,333 containers collected, 702 were collected by Club Interact at SMF HS.



THANK YOU, ROTARIANS, and CLUB INTERACT!

100 WOMEN STRONG OHIO GRANT

100 Women Strong Ohio is a organization of women based in Hudson who are committed to improving the lives of people in need in NE Ohio. By pooling their resources, *100 Women Strong Ohio* members have made grants that significantly impact non-profits in NE Ohio. *Bulldog Bags, Inc.* was honored to be a finalist for their First Giving Event of 2021. At the event, the three finalists had display tables and each presented the "story" of their organization. Members in attendance voted and Bulldog Bags, Inc. was awarded one of two \$5,000 grants; the top finalist was awarded \$20,000! Besides the monetary award, *Bulldog Bags, Inc.* met many people who are interested in volunteering with our organization! *100 Women Strong Ohio* is an amazing organization that is impacting people's lives! Thank you!

APPRECIATION

A mom reported that "it truly makes me smile, when my children get the Bags, because they love everything in it and can eat everything you all provide without the worry of an allergy!"

AKRON UKULELE CLUB

Bulldog Bags, Inc. will have Information Tables at the Stow Community Farmers Market on August 7 and September 18. On August 7th, the *Akron Ukulele Club* will be sponsoring a fundraiser for *Bulldog Bags, Inc.* As you are listening to the fun Ukulele music, you can toss some change into the buckets! Also, at the *Bulldog Bags, Inc.* Information Table there will be items to be auctioned off from the following: Fawn & Fancy, Texas Road House, Red Lobster, Maurices, Dairy Queen, Handels, and more to come.....**Don't Miss This Opportunity!**

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 26	Stow Community Picnic 1 - 7
August 1 - 31	Five Below Fundraiser
August 7	Akron Ukulele Club Fundraiser at Stow Farmers Market 9 - 12:30
September 18	Bulldog Bags, Inc. Info Table at Stow Farmers Market 9 - 12:30

FIVE BELOW FUNDRAISER

For the whole month of August, if you present the flyer, Five Below on Kent Road will donate 10% of your purchase to help Bulldog Bags, Inc. address food insecurity! Time to stock up on school supplies and gifts for all occasions! Flyer is available at www.bulldogbags.org/events

STOW STRONG COMMUNITY PICNIC

To kick off *Stow Strong Week* (June 26 - July 5), there will be a Community Picnic at Stow City Center from 1 - 7 p.m. It will feature lots of entertainment, fun, and games. There will be "Picnic in the Park" - you will order food from local restaurants and it will be delivered to the designated pick-up spot by Bulldog Bags, Inc. volunteers. Delivery tips will benefit Bulldog Bags, Inc. If you'd like to volunteer as a driver, sign-up for a 2 hour shift at www.bulldogbags.org/events

2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

Bulldog Bags, Inc. plans to return to its original schedule of packing and distributing on two Fridays a month. At this time the exact dates have not been determined, but as soon as we have them we will post them on the web page, so that volunteers can sign up at www.bulldogbags.org/volunteers. We will no longer be limited to a small number of volunteers...we hope that all those groups that were so faithful prior to the pandemic will again sign-up!

FOOD DRIVES FOR BULLDOG BAGS/BOXES

Food drives are very important to help keep our cost of Bulldog Bags/Boxes manageable. The purchasers first look at the number of items donated, then what is available at the Food Bank, then the rest is purchased at local retailers. The Food Drive Schedules are available at www.bulldogbags.org/food-drives

LETTER OF APPRECIATION

To a generous, amazing community...THANK YOU! *Bulldog Bags, Inc.* is a community, non-profit, all-volunteer organization that addresses food insecurity in students Pre-K - HS in the SMF schools. Programs like Bulldog Bags, Bulldog Boxes, Bulldog Cupboards in the HS and Middle school work toward this goal. For more information go to www.bulldogbags.org. These amazing programs only happen because of special people who care about children and their families in the SMF communities. It has been my honor to serve all of these people from the SMF communities and I personally want to thank: The SMFCSD Administration, Counselors, and Teachers, the lifeline of the *Bulldog Bags, Inc.* organization. John Probonic and the Stow City Hall Staff that have made room for *Bulldog Bags, Inc.* in City Hall and provided support. Most of all, the *Bulldog Bags, Inc.* officers, board of directors, and the army of volunteers. Many thanks, also, go to generous donors in the communities, churches, clubs, organizations, and businesses that give so freely of their time and resources. You make the organization happen! Thank you for your support, enthusiasm, and encouragement that you continue to give each month.

Laura Root, President and Co-founder of Bulldog Bags, Inc.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

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