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**Thank You!**

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**Feeding Our Kids** <info@feedingourkids.org>  
Reply-To: Feeding Our Kids <info@reply.feedingourkids.org>  
To: Feeding Our Kids <info@feedingourkids.org>

Fri, Jul 31, 2020 at 11:23 AM



## 2019 - 2020 Thank You Newsletter

Hello Friend

Back in March, we were excitedly anticipating our first Thank You Event as a chance to recognize our volunteers, donors, and school workers that make our mission possible. Obviously, events have not allowed us to hold the event as we had hoped.

However, it is still critical that we recognize all the amazing support we have received over the past year. Therefore, we are thanking these incredible people with this newsletter. While we know this is not nearly enough, we hope that it will suffice for now, until we can properly say "Thank You" in person.

While it is said often, it is unquestionably true that we cannot do our work without all of you. Thanks to the support of you and these individuals, we were able to deliver almost **38,000 bags of food** to almost **1,100 kids** this past year. That is the kind of impact you have helped make.

On a personal note, I'd like to thank the Board of Directors for their support during my first full year as Executive Director. I especially want to thank **Andrea Sullivan** and **Diana Fischer** who attended and helped me run the majority of the sorts, truck deliveries, and inventory days. I honestly have no idea how I would have managed without their help.

Thank you all so much!

Matthew A. Hausman,  
Executive Director

PS: Please note that this email newsletter may be clipped short when you first open it. If so, please click on "View Entire Message" at the bottom to see all the amazing people we want to thank this year!

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## In-Kind Sponsors

These sponsors are key to our operations by providing goods and services free of charge which allows us to put more of our budget towards food and serve even more children.



### **Champaign Church of Christ**

Acting as our "home," the church provides us space rent-free that we use for storage and for our sorting activities. The church also packs food bags and uses their trailer to deliver to schools outside of C-U. Recently, through the church's Hope Worldwide organization, we received a large food donation for our summer operations.



### **Thirdside**

Thirdside generously donates web hosting and web development services to Feeding Our Kids.



### **Two Men and a Truck**

Two Men and a Truck help us by loading our bulk purchases of food from Sam's Club, bringing it to the church, and helping unload it inside.

### **Champaign Unit 4 Food Services**

Champaign Unit 4 Food Services donate their surplus snacks and juice drinks, which adds up to hundreds of dollars of food each month.

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## **Special Partner Recognition**

These partners help Feeding Our Kids in a variety of different and important ways to further our mission of fighting food insecurity.

The **Donnini- Rudolph Family Foundation** made another extremely generous donation this year to assist in expanding the Feeding Our Kids program to as many kids and schools as possible, both now and in the future.

The **Eastern Illinois Foodbank**, the major hunger organization in the area, supports Feeding Our Kids, and other local agencies, in a variety of ways, including resources and financial grants. Additionally, the food we received from EIF in April and May this year was covered due to the tremendous support EIF received from the community in response to COVID-19.

The **United Way of Champaign County** and the **Community Foundation of East-Central Illinois** also helped Feeding Our Kids as part of the COVID-19 response. They provided us with a generous grant to cover our summer operations, which was an unplanned continuation of our activities.

The **Indian Cultural Society of Champaign-Urbana** has supported Feeding Our Kids both financially and by organizing groups of volunteers for food sorts and inventory days. Additionally, Feeding Our Kids has been the fortunate beneficiary of the ICS's amazing Diwali and Taste of India celebrations.

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# Adopt-a-School Donors

This was the first year of our Adopt-a-School campaign. It raised more than \$40,000 to support children in 17 schools. Thank you to these sponsors for supporting this new initiative.

## Champions:

Church Women United in Illinois - Stratton Elementary, Champaign

## Partners:

Busey Bank Employees - Broadmeadow Elementary, Rantoul

## Advocates:

Anonymous Family - Urbana Early Childhood

CU Church - Thomas Paine Elementary, Urbana

Door of Hope Church - Booker T. Washington Elementary, Champaign, and  
Southside Elementary, Champaign

The Vassireddy Family - Westview Elementary, Champaign

Vineyard Church - Dr. King Elementary, Urbana

## Supporters:

Anonymous Family - Robeson Elementary, Champaign

The Hasanadka Family - Leal Elementary School, Urbana

The Laut Family - Leal Elementary School, Urbana

The Morris Family - Ludlow Elementary School

Stone Creek Church - Urbana Middle School

## Friends:

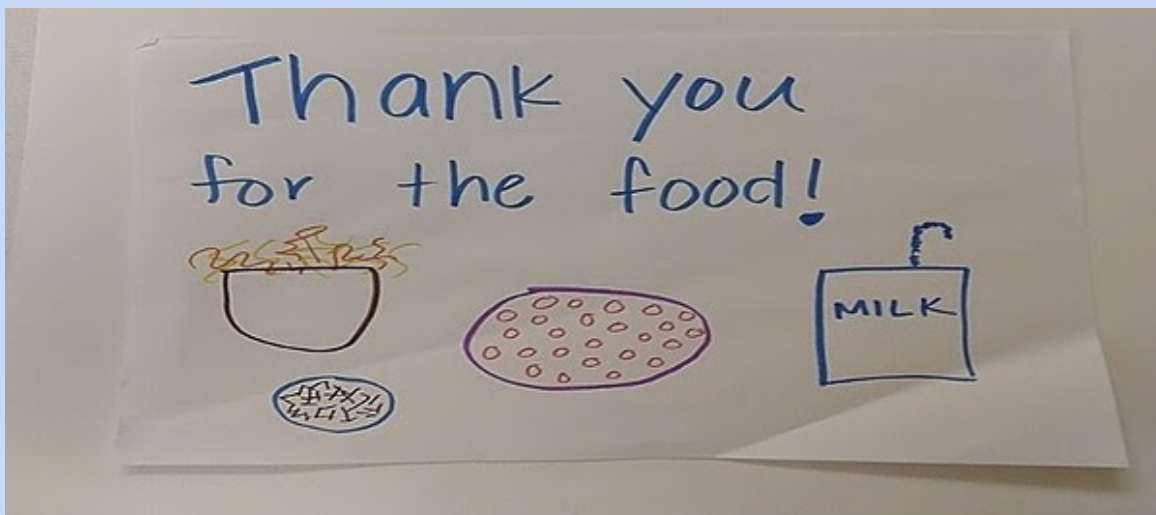
The Hanlon Family - Robeson Elementary School, Champaign

Hausman Farms - North Ward Elementary School, Tuscola

The Nelson Family - Savoy Head Start

Rector Construction - Franklin Middle School, Champaign

The Vermillion Family - Thomasboro Grade School



## **ATLAS Interns**

We have had incredible interns from the U of I throughout 2019-2020 as part of the ATLAS program. They have performed a variety of tasks including, but not limited to, volunteer coordination, data gathering and recording, creating content for the website and social media, even these newsletters. They help make FOK run so much smoother and they deserve a great deal of thanks.

Lisa Perry (Program Coordinator); Joanna Szumny; Sarah Razafsha; Crystal Yuan; Ming Lin; Jenny Park; Scott Lee; Brooke Ingram; Bryant Huynh; Adam Gesmer; Margaret Rogin; and Ipsita Pathak

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## **Volunteer Totals**

This past year we have documented **188 volunteers** who worked a total of **977 hours** at food sorts, delivery receiving, and inventory days. This total doesn't even count the volunteers that participate in the Sunday sorts put on by the members of the Champaign Church of Christ, who normally prepare at least a third of our total bags every 2 weeks. They worked an estimated total of about **350 hours** at their sorts. It also doesn't count the time put in by the delivery volunteers and the school staff. When all that is added up, **it is estimated to be more than 3000 total hours** that various members of our community worked to help fight youth food insecurity in the area.

## **Top Volunteers**

These volunteers worked **more than 10 hours** during the entire fiscal year:  
Andrea Sullivan, Diana Fischer, Laurie Larson, Samuel Rice, Kathy Simmons, Vanessa Morris, Jody Hanger, Susie Kim, Gianina Baker, Steve Essex, Jill Knutson and Lori Rogers

These volunteers came to **more than 5 sorts** during the entire fiscal year:  
Andrea Sullivan, Diana Fischer, Laurie Larson, Samuel Rice, Kathy Simmons, Carol Pesch, Vanessa Morris, Jody Hanger, Mary Beth Bogner, Kelly Small,

Susie Kim, Paula Van DeWynqaerde, Jessa Barnard, Gianina Baker, Jes Lehmkuhl, Amy Aviram, Steve Essex, Jill Knutson and Lori Rogers

## Group Volunteers

Three local youth groups: **Edison CARES**; **BSA Troop #10**; and **Urbana Key Club** each volunteered at multiple activities earlier in the year and we appreciate their help as well as their dedication to instilling the value of service in local youths.

Additionally, local businesses such as **Busey Bank**, **Ryan Dallas Real Estate**, and **The Atkins Group** have organized employees to come as a group and volunteer. We welcome and greatly appreciate the help from such groups.

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*"One of our students recently moved here to better their lives from the circumstances around them. Basically homeless, living with a friend temporarily, trying to get on their feet, a young family trying to find jobs, trying to find enough food/clothes, and at least one bed for the whole family. Knowing that they receive food every week for their child has lightened their burdens and made a world of difference for them."*

*-Urbana Early Childhood School*

*"I have a first grade student who comes from a single parent home with 4 children. He gets so excited about getting his food bag. Throughout the week when I see him in the hall he will say, 'See ya Friday!' When I go to drop off his food he always gives me a BIG hug because he is so excited to take his bag home to share with his family. His mom is very appreciative. She says getting the food bag is the highlight of her and her son's week."*

*-Leal Elementary School*

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## Delivery Drivers

These great volunteers have made sure the food goes out to the schools. When schools closed due to the pandemic, some volunteers also helped with anonymous home deliveries.

**Special mention to two delivery volunteers:** Due to the size of the food deliveries for certain schools, **Kate Winkler** and **Stacy Bennett** delivered food weekly instead of the normal two-week cycle.

**Trailer Delivery Drivers** (Members of the Champaign Church of Christ) that take bins to the outlying communities:

Tracy & Phyllis Larr, Dave Tomlinson, Joshua Lutz, Frank Blair

**Champaign & Urbana Area Delivery Drivers:**

Amy Aviram, Ashtin Bader, Colleen Braun, Margie Carter, Robby Cekander, Jesus Cervantes, Denise Deffenbaugh, Laura Evans, Sharon Foley, Oyatta Hanny, Levette Harmon, Hal Hassen, Ralph Hensley, Elizabeth Hess, Pamela Hinz, Shamika Hughes, Debbie Isham, Donita Jacobson, Hahna Kang, Marita Kheim, Ann Kirkland, Jill Knutson, Matthew Kopmann, Debbie Larson, Laurie Larson, Antonial Lotts, Jessica Lusk, Karin Maher, Jenna Mahoney, Moseka Mazonge, Megan McGinty, Patty Morenz, Thomas Napier, Sue Outlaw, Regan Phillips, Hanna Reside, Lori Rogers, Caryn Short, Gina Smith, Frances Song, Samantha Steelman, Andrea Sullivan, Jason Wallace, Michaela Kruse, Adam Kruse, Mary Cecava, Justine Stensrude, Jessica Lehmkuhl, Kristian Sargeant, Abby Crull, Karen Klebbe, Amelia Weber, Gianina Baker, Leah Taylor, Amanda Baker and Amanda Hemming

Additionally, there are many other delivery volunteers that were organized through school PTA's and we don't have their names readily available. Please know that even if we don't have your name listed, your help is greatly appreciated!

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## School Partners

Our critical frontline partners are the social workers and school staff that run the Feeding Our Kids program in the schools. They identify the children that need help and then make sure the food bags get into their backpacks to go home. Without this hard work, which they do on top of their regular school responsibilities, Feeding Our Kids would not be able to function.

Lexia Swope-Hassan (Barkstall), Jennie Damler (Bottenfield), Gabriele Cooper (Broadmeadow), Jenna Mahoney (BTW), Niki Huckstadt (Carrie Busey), Brandy Dietsch (Champ Early), Whitney Highfill (Circle Academy), Kelly Russell (CU Early), Jeffrey Boyd (Dr Howard), Oyatta Hanny (Dr. King), Emily Stratton (Eastlawn), Edson Castejon (Edison), Tara Walters (Fisher), Katrina Flynn (Franklin), Kelesia Kunkel (Head Start), Annadel Melendez (IPA), Cindy Barger (Jefferson), Jennifer Free (JW Eater), Ellen Schultz (Kenwood), Deborah Poblano (Leal), Alyssa Vance (Ludlow), Julie Ditmars &

Nancy Cosner (Middletown), Emily Rusk & Jessie Hanner (Tuscola North Ward), Laurie Kaufmann (Northview), Jesus Yopez (Pleasant Acres), Tonya Bond (Rantoul PreK), Jennifer Hickey (Robeson), Anna McCarthy (Southside), Alexis Gatses (Stratton), Teresa Brown (Thomas Paine), Tasha Saltgaver & Kathleen Wirth-Couch (Thomasboro), Gloretha Brown (Urbana Early Childhood), Eva Martone (Urbana Middle School), Lisa Mosley (Westview), Antonial Lotts (Wiley) and Kelly Halcom (Yankee Ridge)

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*“When a family lets us know that they are experiencing homelessness, I offer Feeding Our Kids to help ease their burden. The kids are so appreciative and happy to see they have some extra food to take home on the weekends. Many offer to pay it forward, by helping me pass out the snack bags”*  
*-Westview Elementary*

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## Final Thanks

It is almost certain that we forgot to mention some people that deserve to be recognized (especially since this is the first year we tried to specifically track volunteer hours). We humbly apologize for this and please forgive any oversight as we've put this Thank You Newsletter together.

Please know that all of our supporters are extremely important we are incredibly grateful for all you do for us, and more importantly, for the youth of our community.

# ***THANK YOU!!!***



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For all questions, comments, suggestions, please email us at [info@feedingourkids.org](mailto:info@feedingourkids.org), give us a call at 219-370-6070, or fill out the contact form.

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