

SEPTEMBER 2024



*The Weekend Bag*  
Program Inc



**Working To End Juvenile Food & Hygiene Insufficiency  
One Weekend Bag At A Time!**

## **The Weekend Bag Benefits Students BEYOND the Bag**

The Weekend Bag Program, Inc. provides students from the primary school level through college level with food and hygiene necessities they would otherwise not have access to. BUT did you know that The Weekend Bag Program, Inc. also helps many other students beyond the bag?

Transition students within our county assist with assembling insert bags (ziploc bags containing individual items we put in the bags to send home on the weekends) as well as traditional Weekend Bags in their classrooms. This experience not only provides these students the opportunity to practice basic life skills, but also provides a sense of belonging and community.

As a kid-run program, young people of all ages who volunteer with us continuously develop and practice interpersonal skill sets such as: teamwork, empathy, responsibility, and leadership skills. The Weekend Bag Program, Inc. also offers the opportunity to meet new people in their communities and build professional relationships. Team Building is an important value of The Weekend Bag Program, Inc. Team. We offer opportunities for local organizations a new and unique way to give back to the community as a team.

If you or someone you know is interested in the opportunities The Weekend Bag Program, Inc. offers please visit our website for more information on how you can get involved in making a difference in your community.

## September Dates to Remember

- **09/01/24** - Stuff The Van @ Weis Markets in Franklin & Newton
- **09/14/24** - Stuff The Van @ Newton Shoprite
- **09/15/24** - Sussex County Day Info Table
- **9/22/24** O'Reillys October Fest to benefit The Weekend Bag Program Inc
- **09/29/24** - Stop & Shop Back to School Cram the Trunk w/The Sparta Community Food Pantry

## Contact Us

1-833-KIDSBAG

[weekendbagprogram.org](http://weekendbagprogram.org)

[theweekendbagprogram@gmail.com](mailto:theweekendbagprogram@gmail.com)



Follow us on:

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# Opportunities to Support in September

## Stuff the Van Events in Sussex County

As a new school year kicks off this month, The Weekend Bag Program, Inc. is fortunate enough to partner with several of our local grocery stores to do "Stuff The Van" events throughout Sussex County. Stop by any of these events to purchase items to donate, make monetary donations, or simply to learn more about the program. Here is a list of "Stuff the Van" events that will benefit The Weekend Bag Program, Inc. :

- **9/1 @ Weis Markets in Franklin AND Newton from 9-4**

*Both stores will hold a Stuff the Van event this day. The two stores will be participating in a friendly competition to see who can collect the most donations. Come out and support not only The Weekend Bag Program, but your local Weis as well!*

- **9/14 @ Shoprite in Newton from 9-4**
- **9/29 @ Stop & Shop in Sparta from 9-4**

This is a collaboration effort with The Sparta Community Food Pantry. Both The Weekend Bag Program, Inc and The Sparta Community Food Pantry will be collecting items at this event. This is a great opportunity to support TWO local programs that fight food insufficiency in our county!

**We can't thank Weis Markets, Shoprite, and Stop & Shop enough for supporting The Weekend Bag Program, Inc., and for joining us in our fight to end juvenile food and hygiene insecurity!**

## Sussex County Day @ Sussex County Fair Grounds (9/15)

On Sunday, September 15th The Weekend Bag Program, Inc., will host an informational booth at Sussex County Day. We are in need of volunteers to help set up/clean up the booth as well as individuals who would like to donate an hour or two of their time that day to help spread awareness of The Weekend Bag Program, Inc. by handing out literature, inviting visitors to sign up for the newsletter, as well as engage visitors in fun and games at the booth (such as tattoos, pick a pop game, raffle). If you'd like to volunteer for this event, please sign up here:

## October Fest @ O'Reilly's Pub & Grill (9/22)

Check our website and Follow us on social media for more updated details and information about this event.



*The Weekend Bag*  
Program Inc

# Volunteer Opportunities In September



## Back to School Stuff the Van Events

### **Dates:**

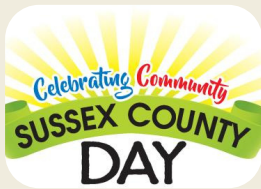
Sunday 9/1 @ Weis Newton & Weis Franklin

Saturday 9/14 @ Shoprite in Newton

**Time:** 9am - 4pm

Description: Volunteers will help hand out “shopping lists” of items we need donated to patrons as they enter the stores. As donations are brought to our area, we will load them into the van and organize them into bags inside the van. Volunteers will also engage with visitors helping to spread the word about The Weekend Bag Program, Inc and hand out information. We will also need volunteers after the event back at the warehouse to help unload donations and put them away on our shelves. If you are available to help at all during this day, please sign up below (you may sign up for more than one time slot)

[Sign Up Here](#)



## Sussex County Day

**Date:** Sunday, September 15

**Place:** Sussex County Fairgrounds

**Time:** 10am -4pm

Description: This day is dedicated to celebrating all the things that make Sussex County great!

Free entry for a day of food, games and activities, vendors, and more. Learn about the many community organizations and companies that make Sussex County a great place to live, work, and play! Volunteers for The Weekend Bag Program, Inc. will sit at our table and greet visitors. They will discuss/explain The Weekend Bag Program, Inc., distribute informational literature, promote upcoming events, collect emails from visitors who are interested in volunteering or being on the mailing list to receive the monthly newsletter, etc. Volunteers will also facilitate other activities at our table to engage visitors (pick-a-pop game, tattoos, etc). If you are interested in helping at this event, please sign up below (you may sign up for more than one time slot).

[Sign Up Here](#)



We are always looking for volunteers to join our core volunteer team. This fun, energetic, organized group of folks help run the day to day work of the program from planning events to managing communications. If you are interested in joining our team, or would like more information please email us at [theweekendbagprogram@gmail.com](mailto:theweekendbagprogram@gmail.com) or call us at 1-833-KIDSBAG.

# Tuesday Evening Bag Packing

As a new school year kicks off this month, we are gearing up to start packing the bags to send home with students over the weekend. Each week we pack approximately 200+ bags on Tuesday evenings, to be delivered to the schools where they find their way into the hands of students who need them for the weekend. Packing the bags is a crucial part of The Weekend Bag Program, Inc. and as the saying goes, "many hands make light work."

While we have already started scheduling volunteer groups, we always welcome new volunteers to help assemble bags for the weekends. If you or your group would like to get on the calendar to volunteer to help pack bags on a Tuesday evening, please email us at

**[theweekendbagprogram@gmail.com](mailto:theweekendbagprogram@gmail.com)**

or call us at

**1-833-KIDSBAG**

This is a great team building opportunity for clubs, groups, offices/businesses, but also a great opportunity for individual community/volunteer service hours!



# Participating Schools

## 2024 - 2025 School Year

*The Weekend Bag Program, Inc. currently runs in 18 schools throughout Sussex County for the 2024-2025 school year.*

*If you (or someone you know) has a student in need of a weekend bag to take home, please contact us or your school's administration so we can put you in touch with your school's liaison.*

*If your school is not on the list of participating schools, please either bring it to the school's attention OR reach out to us so we can collaborate with the school administration to implement The Weekend Bag Program, Inc at your school.*

**Hopatcong Norwescap Head Start/Early Learning (pre-school)**

**Wantage Norwescap Head Start/Early Learning (pre-school)**

**Merriam Avenue Pre-School**

**Green Hills School**

**Merriam Avenue Elementary School**

**Halsted Middle School**

**Long Pond Middle School**

**Florence M Burd Elementary School**

**Sussex County Charter School for Technology**

**Sussex County Technical High School**

**Hamburg Borough School**

**Montague Township Elementary School**

**Hardyston Township Middle School**

**Hardyston Township Elementary School**

**Ogdensburg Borough School**

**Kittatinny Regional High School**

**Marian E. McKeown Elementary School**

**Wallkill Valley Regional High School**

# **The Weekend Bag Program, Inc.**

## **Executive Board**

### **Weekend Bag Program,** **Inc. Officers**

**Isobel Costello**  
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**Magdalen Costello**  
*President*

**Olivia Costello**  
*CEO*

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**Athena Storm**  
*Associate Executive Director at Dasi: Domestic Abuse  
& Sexual Assault Intervention Services*

**Kimberly Williams**  
*Community Development Director, Newton NJ*