

OCTOBER 2024



*The Weekend Bag*  
Program Inc



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

## The Weekend Bag's Impact

### BEYOND THE BAG

The Weekend Bag Program, Inc., impacts Sussex County students beyond the distribution of weekend bags...in so many ways. We are proud of the partnerships we have forged to help students in the community "beyond the bag." This month, we'd like to highlight one of our cherished "Beyond the Bag" partnerships and give a huge shout-out to our friends from **The Newton High School ACHIEVE Transition program**.

The ACHIEVE Transition program is a Work Based, Life Skills Learning Program where students are provided with daily work-based learning experiences and real life opportunities to be involved in the community. After learning about The Weekend Bag Program, the program advisor, Liz, reached out to us to see how we could potentially help each other.

This amazing partnership is truly a symbiotic relationship in that both programs benefit greatly! The students in the ACHIEVE program help The Weekend Bag Program, Inc. by saving us time shopping and assembling bags. Each week, the students assemble approximately 100 weekly insert baggies (smaller bags placed inside the weekend bags containing smaller, individual items). This is a huge time saver for us! The Weekend Bag provides all of the necessary items for the insert baggies, we also give the students of the ACHIEVE program a gift card to one of our local grocery stores along with a list of a few items we need to assemble the weekend bags.

In return, the students involved in the ACHIEVE program gain life skill experience and an opportunity for the students to interact with members of their community while also learning how to navigate grocery stores, all valuable skills they will need once able to live on their own.

We love that The Weekend Bag Program Inc is expanding Beyond The Bag and is able to reach students with different needs, growing our Weekend Bag Warrior Family. And we thank all those involved with the ACHIEVE program for all they do for us! We are thankful to have them as part of our village!!

## October Dates to Remember

- **10/13/2024** - O'Reilly's 2024 October "feis"
- **10/19/2024** - Paint & Sip at Lafayette Village
- **10/23/ 2024** - Pasta Dinner Fundraiser @ The Chelsea at Sparta



Former President Olivia and current President Magdelan Receive an appreciation plaque from the ACHIEVE program

## Contact Us

1-833-KIDSBAG

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

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

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Scan here to get on the mailing list & receive the digital monthly newsletter



# Opportunities to Support The Weekend Bag Program Inc. in October

## O'Reilly's Oktober "feis" 2024 10/13

**Date:** October 13, 2024

**Time:** 1PM - 8PM

**Cost:** No cover charge  
(charges for food and drink)

**Place:** O'Reilly's Pub

271 Spring Street, Newton

**Details:** Come enjoy an afternoon/evening of fun, games, music, and raffles with the people of O'Reilly's Pub! The food is great, the people are amazing, and this year the event benefits The Weekend Bag Program, Inc.! We hope to see you there!



**Paint & Sip for a Cause**

The Weekend Bag Program Inc.

**BYOB**

**Working To End Juvenile Food & Hygiene Insecurity In Sussex County One Weekend Bag At A Time!**

We will be painting porch signs (4x6) with over 150 designs to choose from w/ Jen Starr of Paint Fusion Art Events

All Supplies Included  
**\$50.00 per person**

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

We Will Have Some Light Snacks But Feel Free To Bring Snacks and Drinks To Sip

**Saturday, October 19, 2024**  
**Village Hall**

The Shoppes at Lafayette  
75 State Route 15, Unit 51, Lafayette, NJ 07849

**7pm -10pm**

The Weekend Bag Program Inc.

## Paint & Sip 10/19

**Date:** October 19, 2024

**Time:** 7PM - 10PM

**Cost:** \$50 per person  
(includes all project supplies)

**Place:** Village Hall

The Shoppes at Lafayette

75 State Route 15, Unit 51, Lafayette

**Details:** Get your friends together and snag your tickets today to secure your seats for this fun event! You'll create a beautiful wooden porch sign (4X6) choosing from over 150 designs. Professional Jen Starr of Paint Fusion Art Events will lead you as you channel your inner artist. Light refreshments will be available but feel free to bring your own spread and BYOB.

# Opportunities to Support The Weekend Bag Program Inc. in October

## Pasta Night @ The Chelsea at Sparta 10/23

**Date:** October 23, 2024

**Time:** 4PM - 5:30PM (Take out Only)

**Cost:** \$10 per plate

**Place:** The Chelsea at Sparta

513 Lafayette Road, Sparta NJ

**Details:** Don't worry about dinner on this night, we've got it covered! The amazing folks at The Chelsea at Sparta will be cooking a delicious meal of pasta (your choice of Penne ala Vodka, Cheese Ravioli, or Cavatelli & Broccoli), with a small side salad, garlic knots and a cookie for dessert. Proceeds will benefit The Weekend Bag Program, Inc. What a great chance to enjoy a home cooked meal (without having to cook at home) WHILE supporting our mission to fight food and hygiene insecurity among students students in Sussex County!

A vertical poster for a pasta fundraiser. The background is light orange with various pasta shapes (penne, ravioli, shells, etc.) scattered around. The title "Pasta for a Purpose" is in a red, cursive font. Below it, a green text block explains the fundraiser's purpose. A red text block lists the menu for a \$10 donation. A red text block provides pickup information. A red text block provides ordering information. At the bottom is the logo for "THE CHELSEA AT SPARTA" in a white box with a red swirl icon.

**Pasta for a Purpose**

A fundraiser for The Weekend Bag Program, inc. a kid founded and run 501(c)3 nonprofit created to provide students going home from school over the weekend with food and hygiene they otherwise wouldn't have.

**For your \$10 donation:**

- Main Pasta Entree ( Penne ala vodka, cheese ravioli or cavatelli and broccoli)
- small side salad
- garlic knots
- cookie

Pick up on October 23rd between 4:00 and 5:30  
**The Chelsea at Sparta**  
513 Lafayette Road, Sparta NJ

To order call: 973-437-5400 by 10/16/24 or  
email: [mrue1@cslal.com](mailto:mrue1@cslal.com)

 **THE CHELSEA  
AT SPARTA**

# Volunteer Opportunities In October



We are looking for volunteers to join our core volunteer team. This fun, energetic, organized group of folks help run the day to day business of the program from planning fundraising events and drives, to managing communications, inventory, and budgets. The need for weekend bags has gone up significantly since last school year and we are determined to send home a weekend bag with **every** student who needs one. However, since the need among Sussex County students has increased, so has our need for volunteers! ***We can't do this without our village!*** Not only will you be making the difference in the lives of young people in our community, but you'll find that when you're part of this team, ***you're part of a family!***

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

Bag deliveries start this month!

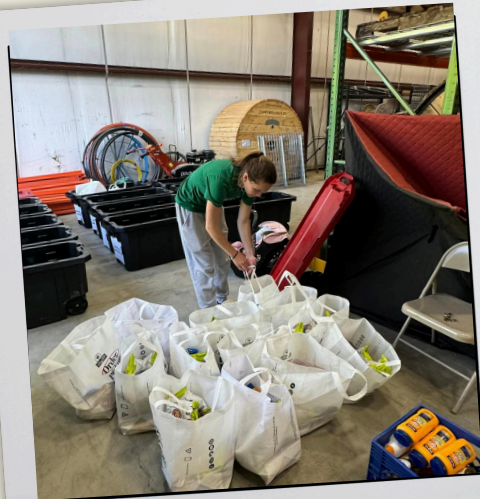
Each week we pack approximately 200+ bags on Tuesday evenings at our warehouse, to be delivered to the schools on our list. From there, they find their way into the hands of students who need them for the weekend. Packing the bags is a crucial part of The Weekend Bag Program, Inc. and as the saying goes, “many hands make light work.”

We always welcome new volunteers (individuals or groups) 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 19 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**

**Sandyston Walpak Elementary School**

# The Weekend Bag Program, Inc. Youth Council

*Leadership  
Opportunity*

*You've heard us say that The Weekend Bag Program, Inc. is "kid founded and kid run." We take great pride in these two truths, and it is what inspires the adults involved to continue to support and empower the young people involved. However, as the Costello girls grow and head off into the world to forge their own paths it is important to them that the Weekend Program Inc., continue to be youth focused and run by students in Sussex County.*

*Introducing **The Weekend Bag Program, Inc. Youth Council**. This council of young adults will hold leadership roles in the day to day operations of The Weekend Bag Program, Inc. Members of the Youth Council will make decisions for the program, attend public speaking events where they will represent the program, helping to spread the mission of the program. Youth Council members will communicate with local governments, schools, businesses, etc. on a regular basis regarding The Weekend Bag Program, Inc.*

*We are inviting high school and college aged students to apply to serve on this council. This role carries an opportunity to develop your leadership skills, your business skills, public speaking skills, organization skills, people skills and networking skills. You will have the opportunity to work side by side with change making adults in the community, learning from them and networking with them. The volunteer hours you will accumulate will add to your resume and college applications.*

*But the biggest benefit of all is that you will have the opportunity to make a direct impact on the lives of young people in our county. You will help fight juvenile food and hygiene insecurity firsthand.*

*If you're interested in more information, please contact us at*

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

*(833)-KIDSBAG*

*We look forward to hearing from you!*

# DONATE

## Monetary Donations

Monetary donations are greatly appreciated and will allow us to purchase specific items that we need at any moment.

You can make monetary donations either by check made out to: The Weekend Bag Program Inc. and mailed to THE WEEKEND BAG PROGRAM INC. PO Box 205, Andover NJ 07821.

Or by clicking on one of the donate buttons below!

Donate (Paypal)



Donate (Venmo)



## Product Donations

Send product donations by purchasing items off of any of the below Amazon wishlists. Make sure you select the address "The Weekend Bag Program Inc's Gift Registry Address" when it asks you which shipping address to send it to and it will come directly to us

SNACK LIST



MEAL LIST



HYGIENE LIST



If you purchased products that you want to donate, please contact us @ [theweekendbagprogram@gmail.com](mailto:theweekendbagprogram@gmail.com)  
(833)-KIDSBAG

and we can schedule a drop-off or answer any questions.

## Items we Accept

(No Glass Bottles)

### Non-Perishables

- Soups (Cup/Can)
- Cereal (Box/Cup)
- Fruit Snacks
- Pasta & Pasta Sauce
- Juice & Water Bottles
- Mac & Cheese
- Granola Bars
- Tuna & Ramen
- Chef Boyardee
- Applesauce Cup
- Individual snacks (chips/cookies)

### Hygiene Items

- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Body Soap
- Toilet Paper (Single Roll)
- Conditioner
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrush (single)
- Tissue (Travel Size)
- Laundry Soap



# Partner With US

Partner with us!

The Weekend Bag Program, Inc. could not possibly continue to run without the support of our amazing and dedicated sponsors. These partners support us in a variety of ways on a regular basis by donating their resources, time, and support to ensure that students in Sussex County continue to have access to food and hygiene on the weekends through The Weekend Bag Program, Inc.

If your organization would like to partner with us in fighting food and hygiene insecurity among young people of Sussex County by making recurring monetary or item donations, please call or email us at



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

## **Executive Board**

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

**Isobel Costello**  
*Founder*

**Magdalen Costello**  
*President*

**Olivia Costello**  
*CEO*

### **Youth Council**

COMING SOON!

### **Board Members**

**Dawn Costello**  
*Secretary/Treasurer/Administrator*

**Javier Gomez**  
*President of Teyma General Contractors LLC*

**Robert Boyle**  
*CEO of Planet Networks*

**Dr. Kevin Shaw**  
*Newton Health and Wellness*

**Mark Maruska**  
*Owner of Gravity DesignWorks*

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

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