

DECEMBER 2024

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



The Weekend Bag Program, Inc. BEYOND THE BAG



The Weekend Bag Program, Inc. is excited to be working with Peace by Piece, a Sussex County program for adults with cognitive disabilities. Peace By Piece is a continuation of high school transition programs, around the county. When students age out of, or graduate high school, those individuals can then work with Peace By Piece to continue a structured day program with other adults. This means, that for some members of Peace By Piece, they are able to continue their work with The Weekend Bag Program, Inc as well!

Peace By Piece has partnered with The Weekend Bag Program, Inc to help their members gain real life experinece and life skills. Every week, they come to The Weekend Bag Program, Inc's warehouse and pick up enough products and bags for 30 full weekend bags. They return to their facily with these items to assemble al 30 bags. By working in their facility, members who are less mobile or unable to travel, are able to participate as well. Once the bags are assembled, they return them to our warehouse where they are then prepared for delivery to our schools.

Members of Peace By Piece also complete inventory of our stock after we have created the weekend bags for the week and create a list of items we are low on to prepare for next week's bag packing. This allows us to purchase items we needj to ensure all students receive full bags every weekend.

Peace By Piece also runs a continuous product collection at their facility to benefit The Weekend Bag Program, Inc.

Not only do the individuals from Peach By Piece provide an important service to the program, and to the students of Sussex County, but they also an absolute joy to be around. We look forward to their smiling faces and sense of humor every week. It's exactly the dose of sunshine we need!! We value our new partnership with Peace By Piece so much, and look forward to continuing our work together!

Contact Us

1-833-KIDSBAG

weekendbagprogram.org

theweekendbagprogram@gmail.com

Follow us on:

[Instagram](#)

[Facebook](#)

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



Volunteer Opportunity



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 or call us at 1-833-KIDSBAG.



Monday & Tuesday Evening Bag Packing

Each week we assemble approximately 250+ bags 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** 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!

We are also in need of shift managers to help facilitate these evenings and groups! If you're interested please email us!



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

Alpine Elementary School

Mohawk Elementary School

Helen Morgan Elementary School

Sparta Middle School

Sparta High School

Lafayette Township School

The Weekend Bag Program,
Inc currently operates in:

-21 out of the 45 public
schools in Sussex County

-1 charter school

-3 pre-schools

Then & Now

**2023-2024
School Year**

**Total Weekend Bags
752**

VS

**2024-2025
School Year**

**Total Weekend Bags
728**

**Total Weekend
Bags
-24 bags**

**(this is due to early dismissals
and holiday schedules that
affected delivery dates
this year)**

The Weekend Bag Program, Inc. Youth Council



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

(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
(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

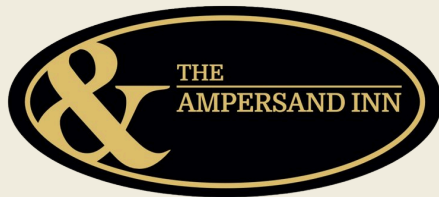


Partner With US

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, product, or service donations, please call or email us to see how you can get involved.



Special Thanks

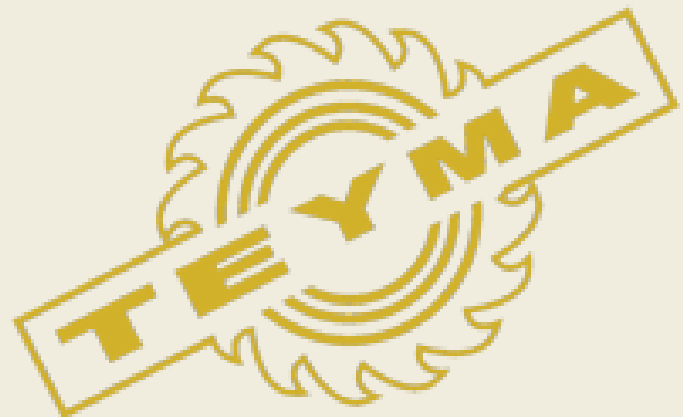
We want to give special thanks to our partners who provide us with services that are essential for The Weekend Bag Program, Inc to operate!



Thank you PLANET NETWORKS for the use of your warehouse to organize & store products, and for providing a place for us to assemble the weekend bags!



Thank you TEYMA for volunteering your drivers and vehicles to deliver bags to schools on a weekly basis! Also for allowing us to use you vans often for Stuff the Van events! Thank you also for donating space in your building for us to use as our headquarters.



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!

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