

# WEEKEND BACKPACKS

Hunger doesn't take the weekend off



FALL/WINTER 2020

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Stu Dettelbach

stu@weekendbackpacks.org

Who would have thought when I wrote the last newsletter article earlier this year that the world would be turned upside down by a pandemic? The children that we serve have been out of the classroom for over seven months. In many cases their parents have been out of work for that period of time, making the need for what we do even more important in their lives.

We have been fortunate to have so many dedicated volunteers who have continued to pack with us each week, including groups of teenagers coming at night to help. Thanks to all of their tireless efforts, we have provided much-needed bags of food every week since the last "normal" packing on Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. We delivered 639 bags of food on that date to 28 schools. Since then, we have been delivering about 1,000 bags per week. We have been able to get the food to the children because of the commitment of the school social workers and community coordinators. In most cases they have delivered the bags we provide directly to the children's homes.

We are blessed to be part of such a caring community. And, of course, none of this would be possible without the financial support of so many very generous and concerned individuals, businesses, trusts, and foundations.

Personally, I am so fortunate to be able to work with a great team of volunteers and board members, many of whom have put the needs of the children before their own personal safety. We are committed to continue doing whatever needs to be done to provide this important supplemental food to as many children and families as we can.

Thank you for your support of our mission. Best wishes to all of you for continued good health and safety in these trying times.



## A Small Amount of Work Yields a Huge Amount of Food.

Leslie Monfred, *Vice President*

LMonfred@weekendbackpacks.org

During the month of September, Backpacks volunteer Barbara Gamse successfully completed a canned goods drive at her condominium complex. By posting an announcement on

Backpacks stationery on the Harbor View bulletin board, and following up with an email to neighbors, she collected over 40 bags of necessary backpack food. Alan Taylor supplied her with the required items and sizes that could be donated. Please consider hosting a food drive in your residence building or community. To get the ball rolling, contact Barbara at b.gamse@att.net or call her, 410-967-4506. She will be happy to discuss the particulars and to email you the announcement for posting.

## We Couldn't Do It Without Them!!

Alan Taylor, Vice President/Director of Operations  
ATaylor@weekendbackpacks.org



We pack food bags. And then we pack even more food bags! Once our bags are packed, our drivers do a wonderful job loading their vehicles and delivering the food bags to the schools. But what happens then?

Well, several years ago, a new position was developed that has now taken on a huge responsibility for the success of the Baltimore City School System. The position is the Community School Coordinator (CSC). The CSC is responsible for searching for outside organizations, nonprofits and corporations that are interested in assisting the local community through the local school. This could be a local church sending several members to tutor after school, a local business sending some employees to run a weekly after-school program, a corporation that would donate tens

of thousands of dollars to build a new playground, or even work with a local organization that would provide weekly food bags to help those with food insecurity make it through every weekend.

I have had the opportunity to talk with the CSCs from the schools we are assisting. They are highly dedicated professionals who are adding more to the local schools than could have been imagined just a few years ago — from medical facilities to garden clubs and new playgrounds paid for by major corporate givers. These coordinators work year-round and add so much to the school, give so much to the students and are a reason for much optimism in the success of the Baltimore City Schools.

With the pandemic requiring virtual learning since March of this year, the CSCs are often receiving the food bags at the school, and meeting groups of parents during the day, students after the school day, or going door by door to make sure the bags are delivered where needed. They are truly amazing people!!!

## “Warming Our Kids” Will Warm Your Heart

Sheilah Kalderon  
sheilahsi@comcast.net



Winter is right around the corner and our youngsters will be in great need of NEW hats, gloves and scarves [girls & boys sizes 6 – 12 yrs old]. Dollar Tree, Walmart and Target are all great resources to find bargain items. Please take your generous cold weather gear donations to 1505 Bedford Ave.

or email me at the address above for pick-up. We hope to start wrapping so they can be delivered before the cold weather really sets in.

**Check out our newly launched redesigned website at [weekendbackpacks.org](https://www.weekendbackpacks.org).**

Invite your friends, family and associates to visit our site where you can “Get Involved,” “Donate” and read about us “In the News.” Thank you to our marketing partner GKV for the great work in bringing it to life.

## COVID Emergency Appeal Continues...

Maxine Lowy, *Treasurer*  
mlowy@weekendbackpacks.org

THANKS TO YOU! In mid-March, we launched our COVID Emergency Appeal as we anticipated the increased needs of our children and their families. Donations of all amounts provided the funding for us to continue our vital services.

By now, you have received our appeal for additional support. Many of you have already generously responded, and for that we say THANK YOU! If you haven't yet, it is never too late, as the need to feed the vulnerable and food-insecure among us keeps growing.

In this Thanksgiving season (and yes, despite it all, we still have so much to be thankful for), please make your donation, either in the enclosed envelope or online at [www.weekendbackpacks.org/donate](http://www.weekendbackpacks.org/donate). If you are considering a recurring monthly donation, please contact me at [mlowy@weekendbackpacks.org](mailto:mlowy@weekendbackpacks.org) to set up your secure transaction.

Be well! Stay safe! And thank you on behalf of all of us at Weekend Backpacks.



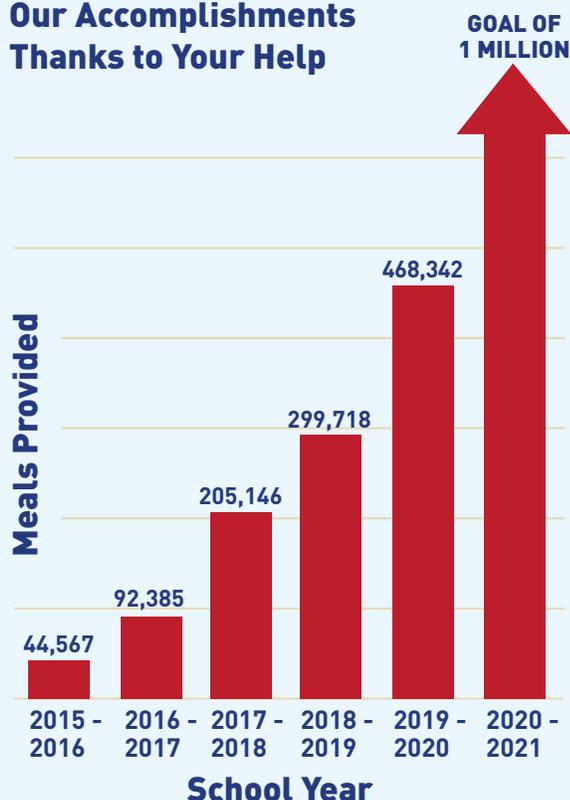
**COMING SOON!**  
For Our Kids 2021  
Kick-off Event:  
"Souper" Bowl LV

Celebrate Super Sunday with a delicious game-time meal in the comfort of your own home. Details to come.

## Weekend Backpacks Donation Cards

Weekend Backpacks donation cards are a great way to acknowledge a special occasion, a recent death, or just to let someone know you are thinking of them. They can be purchased in packs of 6 for \$50 at 1505 Bedford Ave. or by emailing Barbara Cohen [blumajp@gmail.com](mailto:blumajp@gmail.com). You can charge online at [www.weekendbackpacks.org/donate](http://www.weekendbackpacks.org/donate) for a minimum donation of \$10 each (more is always encouraged). A card will be sent in a timely manner.

### Our Accomplishments Thanks to Your Help



**BIG NEWS!**  
Weekend Backpacks honored with Governor's Service Award

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, Governor Larry Hogan joined the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Governor's Service Awards Recognition Ceremony, on their Facebook and Twitter platforms, to celebrate the outstanding volunteer contributions of Maryland residents and organizations. A total of 18 honorees received awards in categories including Pandemic Response Champion, Emerging Leader, and First Responder. Weekend Backpacks was honored with the award for Nonprofit Volunteer Program. Read the whole story on our website at [www.weekendbackpacks.org/in-the-news](http://www.weekendbackpacks.org/in-the-news).

## The Power of the Word

Sandie Nagel, *Founder*

WeekendBackpacks4kids@gmail.com

In going through my late husband Fred's desk, I found a list of words and their meanings. He loved new words. In his memory I will keep this "perspicuous" (easy to understand).

In the past five years since we founded Weekend Backpacks, the words "food insecurity" were the accepted way the professionals spoke about the kids we serve. However, it's more than that. These kids are **hungry**. As we enter the dark days of winter, our volunteers, Fred would say, are "thaumaturgists" (miracle-workers). With only a limited number of people allowed in our headquarters at one time, they make the miracle happen by sending out more bags of food, with less help.

I will not be "verbose" (long-winded). In one way or another, each of you is helping us tremendously. But we still need more from you. I'm asking you to go to our website, [www.weekendbackpacks.org](http://www.weekendbackpacks.org), to see the work we are doing and to receive a "lagniappe" (a gift with a purpose). The gift you get is in your heart.

Not to be "furtive" (sneaky), but I am saying one simple word – **donate** – and asking you to help us feed those hungry kids. Fred also had a love of Spanish. I will close with his favorite blessing, "Que Dios te bendiga" (May God bless you). I hope you and your families stay safe and healthy so that next year we can all celebrate together at our annual "Chef's Event" For Our Kids.

### A special "Thank You"

to our friends and partners who have promoted and supported the mission of Weekend Backpacks:

Maryland Food Bank  
H&S Bakery  
Giant Hunt Valley  
HS-OSC Congregation  
Port Discovery  
Moms on a Mission (Jewish Volunteer Connection)  
Erin Levitas Foundation

Gopher Express  
Karen Singer and "Something Good"  
Dr. Joanne Block Rief and Crossroads Dental Arts  
Beth Israel Congregation  
Women of BHC

Over the past several years the Philoptochos (friends of the poor) Society of **The Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation** have supported Weekend Backpacks by collecting food, donating hats, gloves, and scarves and through generous monetary contributions. "Our church community is grateful to Weekend Backpacks for everything they do to help the children in Baltimore City, and we look forward to a continued partnership." We are thankful for them!

### In Memory Of:



The Board of Directors of Weekend Backpacks extends our deepest sympathies to our Executive Director, Sandie Nagel, on the passing of her beloved husband Fred on July 11<sup>th</sup>. Fred was the co-founder of Weekend Backpacks and, along with Sandie, began packing 18 bags of food on their dining room table. Fred worked tirelessly to launch

Weekend Backpacks, doing anything and everything that was asked of him. He picked up food, delivered to schools, ran numerous errands, and served as our photographer. Perhaps his most important job was to support Sandie and to make sure she was successful. Many people referred to him as "St. Fred." He always had a smile on his face and a kind word for everyone whose life he touched. We thank Fred for the enormous contribution he made to the organization. On behalf of the entire Weekend Backpacks community, we will miss him greatly and will treasure the indelible impression he made on our hearts.

### Board of Directors

President - Stu Dettelbach  
Vice Presidents - Leslie Monfred and Alan Taylor  
Treasurer - Maxine Lowy  
Secretary - Stacy Sapperstein  
Executive Director - Sandie Nagel

### Members at Large:

Richard Block  
Steve Eisenberg  
Barbara Gamse  
Cindy Saval  
Barbara Portnoy Spector  
Geneva Wallace

### Drivers Wanted

If you have an extra 60-90 minutes to spare for a wonderful cause, consider becoming one of our drivers. Contact Steve Eisenberg, Transportation Manager, for more information at [eisey1@hotmail.com](mailto:eisey1@hotmail.com) or 410-615-3340.