

HARBOURVIEW HIGH SCHOOL BROWN BAG LUNCH PROGRAM

Harbourview High School is located on Douglas Avenue and is the default high school for students residing in the north end and west side of the city as well as Grand Bay-Westfield. The student population exceeds 1000 and sadly, it is estimated that 10% of those students do not have adequate nutrition. Many are arriving at school hungry and despite being the most populated of the three inner city high schools, it is the only one that does not have corporate or community sponsorship or a Brown Bag Lunch Program. The teachers have been doing their best to have snacks available for hungry students in their classes but are desperate for a more sustainable and robust solution.

An appeal was sent to churches located in the student's home communities to develop a Brown Bag Lunch Program which would provide 50 lunches for the most vulnerable students each day of the school week. Our Vestry has recommended that our church respond to this urgent request for help. We have committed to providing 50 brown bag lunches once per week. Our lunches will be delivered on Mondays and to date, 3 other churches have signed on to cover 3 other days of the week.

The lunches will consist of a sandwich, 1 snack that is a fruit or veggie, 1 other snack (granola bar, muffin etc.) and a drink. Our church will always make ham and cheese sandwiches to ensure we don't duplicate other church sandwich fillings but we have some flexibility on snacks. We made our first 50 lunches and delivered them on November 6th. The cost per lunch will be about \$2.25-\$2.50 each depending on the snack options.

How can you help?

Our hope is that this project will replace our weekly Romero House outreach which was so successful for two years during the worst of the Covid pandemic. There is a restricted account set up to receive donations to help fund the supplies required to prepare these lunches. We can also use any non-perishable donations such as the juice boxes or granola bars – Costco is the most economical retailer for these. And finally, we hope to attract enough volunteers to form a minimum of four teams that can take turns preparing the lunches each week. Some teams may elect to stay after church on Sunday to make the lunches for Monday. Other teams may prefer to come in later in the day on Sunday or even Monday morning to make the lunches. Assembling the sandwiches and lunches should take no more than 1 hour so as long as the lunches are delivered to the school by noon on Monday, the prep time is at the discretion of the team. We already have 8-10 parishioners prepared to volunteer their time but look forward to adding many more to ensure this project remains sustainable. Don't see yourself making sandwiches? Maybe some of the shopping or lunch delivery to the school is more appealing to you! Please reach out to Terry or Janet if you have any questions and/or would like to become involved in this very important outreach.

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