

D211 POST: SCHAUMBURG STUDENTS HOLD STUFF THE BUS FOOD DRIVE

Students from Schaumburg High School's Students Helping Others partnered with the Schaumburg High School Student Council to hold their first ever "Stuff the Bus" food drive November 11.

FREMD BAND PROGRAM HOSTED SECOND ANNUAL HOLIDAY CANNED FOOD DRIVE



In conjunction with its two Winter Band Concerts, the Fremd Band program hosted its second annual "Holiday Canned Food Drive" on Dec. 16. Fremd Band families donated non-perishable food items for "admission" to the concerts. Approximately two hundred food items were donated to the Palatine Township Food Pantry for needy families.

HOFFMAN ESTATES HIGH SCHOOL'S

FIRST 'HU-HU-HUGE FOOD DRIVE' SURPASSES INITIAL GOAL



Students unveil more than 13,000 food items collected for donation during a pep assembly on Nov. 27.

For 10 days, students at Hoffman Estates High School joined together for a common cause – making sure local families have food to eat during the holiday season.

Students donated more than 13,000 food items to benefit the Schaumburg Food Pantry, Blessings in a Backpack, and the HEHS Food Pantry. The food items were displayed to the school during a pep assembly on Nov. 28, where the total number of donated items was unveiled.

“This was to raise excitement in the school and express what the bigger meaning of donating is,” said Tony Ganas, dean of Students, Special Education teacher, and wrestling coach at Hoffman Estates High School. “Students used social media and Twitter to promote this, and different activities were set up to make people aware that they could participate. We wanted to have one, united goal and accomplish something big.”

The initial goal was to collect 10,000 food items. In only 10 days, students, teachers, and student organizations worked hard to collect as much as they could for charity. Several students organizations, teachers, staff, departments and groups came together to support the cause including: Forensic Team, Student Council, Fine Arts Department, Football Team, English Department, Art Department, Teachers and Teacher’s Union, Dance Show, Auto Club, Yoga for a Cause, Crutch Crew, and the maintenance team.

Students used the hashtags #hehsgrateful and #hehsonecan to promote their efforts on Twitter.

“One person can do something great, and it was cool to see how our students were using social networking in a positive way,” Ganas said. “I am a big advocate of community service. It’s humbling for our students. We want to make sure our students connect with the community in Hoffman Estates, the state of Illinois, and hopefully

bigger from there. It's important for them to start the snowball effect now."

During the pep assembly, several teachers showcased their gratitude by performing a flash mob dance. Check out the video below that was filmed and edited by Hoffman Estates High School students that document the food drive and school to completing their goal.

SUPPORT FOR REALTORS AGAINST HOMELESSNESS' JULY FOOD DRIVE



RAH members construct boxes to collect food for the initiative. From left to right: Sue Gould, Basel Tarabein, Gail Bergstrom, Maria Radwan, and Marty Eich.

When a group of realtors began to notice the hardships that families face in their everyday lives, they knew they needed to do something to help.

That's when Realtors Against Homelessness (RAH) started last year. The group held a fundraiser last fall to benefit students facing homelessness in the District 211 area. The most recent initiative that RAH is spearheading is a summer food drive that partners with businesses in the community.

"We identified several real estate offices that might want to participate in this food drive campaign," said Cindy Eich, one of RAH's founders and member. "All food collected will be distributed."

Eich said the idea to have a summer food drive was conceived from an article one of the group members read. Sue Gould of Prudential Starck organized the effort after reading that it's harder for students to find adequate nutrition during the summer

months. She said many food pantries find it hard to keep food stocked during the summer months because people generally think to donate when the weather is cold or around holidays.

The group, which consists of realtors from six different offices, including RE/MAX at Home, Prudential Stark, Baird and Warner, RE/MAX Suburban, Coldwell Banker, and Keller Williams, put together boxes for local businesses to participate. District 211 is one of the organizations partnering with RAH for the food drive, which will last through the entire month of July.



RAH member Maria Radwan stands next to food collected at a local supermarket.

On Friday, July 13, agents from Baird and Warner will be at the Jewel food store in Hoffman Estates on Palatine Rd., between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. collecting donations. This is the first time the group has done a food drive. Eich believes it's important to help out the communities we live in.

"Even as the market improves, we continue to see the hardship families are going through," Eich said. "Many of the homes we show are vacant properties, and often the clients that we work with are either losing their homes or purchasing a home they know was a short sale or foreclosure. RAH is a group of people committed to the communities and helping in any way we can. This is just a small way we can help."

If you wish to contribute to the food drive or learn more about RAH, contact Cindy Eich at (847) 721-5580 or Sue Gould at (847) 309-5404.

The following offices are participating:

Baird & Warner, Palatine
Baird & Warner, Barrington
Keller Williams, Barrington
Keller Williams, Palatine
Coldwell Banker, Arlington Heights
Prudential Starck, Palatine
RE/MAX at Home, Rolling Meadows
RE/MAX Unlimited Northwest, Lake Zurich
RE/MAX Unlimited Northwest, Palatine
RE/MAX Suburban, Schaumburg

Su Casa, Palatine