

**NO  
CHILD  
HUNGRY**

**NO  
CHILD  
IN  
NEED**



Generating funds to provide weekend nutritious meals to children attending Wiscasset Primary and Middle Schools.

**Wiscasset Feed Our Scholars Backpack Program - Year One: A Success**

News from Feed Our Scholars

**A Big Thanks to Everyone!**

It seems hard to believe that we are well into the second half of the program's first year. Feedback from the schools indicates that all our efforts are making a difference in the lives of the children and their families. A middle schooler says, "It helps a lot at hard times when we don't have a lot of food in the house," while the primary school principal writes, "The children really look forward to getting their food and ask if today is the day on an almost daily

basis.... It is incredible to see the faces of the kids taking food home on the bus and their friends who pitch in to help them when they have two backpacks to carry."

St. Philip's Church and the First Congregational Church of Wiscasset have partnered with Two Bridges Regional Jail to systematize the running of the program. Two Bridges receives, warehouses, and bags the food. Each week, a stalwart group of drivers picks up and delivers the bags to the schools where they are privately handed out to the selected children.



Through individual and business sponsorships, local fundraising, grants, and generous donations - large and small - Wiscasset Feed Our Scholars provided 40 Wiscasset school children with weekend backpacks of nutritious food throughout the 2013/14 school year.



April 6th, 2013 - Our first fundraiser: a Spaghetti Supper/Silent Auction. Nearly 100 people attended this event. Local businesses donated 85 auction items. \$3000 was raised.

Good Shepherd Food Bank through a generous grant from Merrill Lynch, provided a Kids' Pantry at Wiscasset High School, one of eight selected to pilot the program in Maine. As well as a cupboard of shelf-stable foods housed in the school that is accessed



by those in need, Good Shepherd's food truck makes a delivery of fresh produce once a month to help provide more nutritious

choices to the three schools' families.

Through people's generosity we have also been able to supply little extras to the younger children. Thanks to Oakhurst Dairy, primary and middle schoolers were able to have a Thanksgiving treat of orange juice. At the same time, St. Philip's Bargain Basement Thrift Shop gave each student a \$10 gift certificate to use for clothing or gifts. Before December vacation, a generous donor supplied each child with a bag of art supplies, while Sagadahoc MOFGA, Westport Island Knitters, knitters from Grace Church in Bath, and the Two Bridges Jail Industries Program donated beautiful, handmade hats and mittens. Finally, each student was provided with a \$10 certificate to Shaw's to help during the vacation.

Before April vacation, they will find a box of Girl Scout cookies in their packs, and before summer vacation, they will be given another Shaw's certificate.

### 40 Children and Growing!

While we started out supporting 40 students in the primary and middle schools, through your generous donations and various fundraising efforts, FOS was able to increase the number of students reached to 44 for the second half of this school year.

The group's goal is to increase the number to 50 for the 2014/15 school year, thanks in part to a \$5,000 grant from the Elizabeth Ann Leach Charitable Trust. While 50 seems a respectable number that we should celebrate being able to support, many more are in need. There are currently over 200 students in the primary and middle schools who could qualify for inclusion in the program. We hope that you will again consider making a donation for the 2014/15 year. No amount is too large or too small, and all monies donated go to purchase supplies from Good Shepherd for the food packets, Shaw's certificates, and the other treats occasionally included.

### Look for these upcoming events!

Saturday, April 5th, 5:00 - 6:30 pm, we will be having another Spaghetti Supper/Auction Fundraiser at St. Philip's Church, 12 Hodge St. in Wiscasset.

In early May Zumba Instructor Debbie Speed and other Zumba instructors will hold a Zumbathon at Wiscasset High School, all proceeds go to Wiscasset Feed Our Scholars.

Thank you to CopyShop in Wiscasset for your support!



May 4th, 2013 Feed Our Scholars hosted a 5k Family Fun Run/Walk.



A summer Bake Sale at Shaw's in Wiscasset.



A September screening of A Place At The Table.