

# Feed Our Scholars

Helping to curb chronic food insecurities for Wiscasset school children



Dec. 2018

**Greetings!** So much has occurred since our last newsletter. Changes in Wiscasset's schools require a change in how we deliver nutrition to the children Feed Our Scholars is committed to aiding. While weekend bags of food continue to be prepared by honoree inmates at Two Bridges Regional Jail, **a new pantry option** is now open for business: the opportunity to select shelf stable food from a pantry closet at the school. This allows more flexibility in bag contents, and in the future will also provide hungry families with the chance to select foods themselves, whether they opt to receive bags or not. Monthly orders to Good Shepherd Food Bank by Nurse Lynn restock the closet. **Another future goal:** the addition of a monthly opportunity to select fresh produce to take away at the end of the school day as students do through the middle high school pantry.



We continue to provide snacks, gift certificates to Shaw's, hats and mittens, toothbrushes and paste, art bags at Christmas, and fulfill special requests from the school's principal. **New:** Friends of Wiscasset Public Library has provided monies to purchase books for the children at the holidays and end of the school year!

**Check out** our retooled mission statement that more accurately reflects the shift in this privately funded safety net.

## ***From WMHS teacher, Hollie Paul:***

"WMHS Food Pantry is expanding: holding two food bank days weekly, sending weekly food bags home to our most needy students (20 per week) and we are providing fresh produce daily by filling baskets with fresh fruits as well as sliced veggies in individual containers for the student to grab anytime they are hungry. They have a healthy option and are loving it!!

We just completed a gate collection at BIW and other fundraisers are in the planning stages. WMHS has recruited many new members who have been instrumental in keeping this expanding pantry. We meet every second Tuesday of the month in the cafeteria, so come check us out! We just keep growing as the need in the community keeps growing. It really is hard to say no to the tremendous need."

We would like to thank all our donors, community members and volunteers who make our ability to ***Feed Our Scholars*** possible! Please consider supporting this important initiative with your donation, volunteering your time, or contacting us for what we may do together.

Donations to: Feed Our Scholars, Memo: St. Philip's Church, 12 Hodge Street, Wiscasset, ME 04578

Volunteer or learn more: [www.feedourscholars.wordpress.com](http://www.feedourscholars.wordpress.com) or [facebook.com/WiscassetFeedOurScholars](https://facebook.com/WiscassetFeedOurScholars)

## Books for Scholars



At the end of the 2018 school year Friends of Wiscasset Public Library paired with FOS to provide Wiscasset Elementary children who participate in the Backpack Program new books to read over the summer. With the help of School Nurse Lynn who collected the scholars book requests, and funding from 'Friends', we purchased 30 books, both fiction and non-fiction. About half these books were specifically requested by the scholars, the rest were selected based upon book reviews and grade levels of the students. Each book was tied with a ribbon, and included a special note with a Friends of Wiscasset Library bookplate. We plan to duplicate this effort in December 2018 so that the scholars will have good books to read over the holidays and on snow days.

## Our Year in Fundraisers!



Our annual bake sale was held on December 8, 2018 at Ames Supply. We always have a large selection to choose from and payments are by donation. A big thanks to Ames Supply for lending us their space and to the numerous volunteers who bake tirelessly for this event each year towards our mission.



The 2018 Pirate Rendezvous was held in Damariscotta on Saturday, June 23rd. We were in the children's area running a couple of fun games. Kids searched through a treasure chest full of sand to find a coin or threw rubber rats into a barrel to earn a prize which were donated by Big Al's in Wiscasset.



Sunday, September 16th turned out to be a gorgeous day for our first Touch a Truck event. We are so grateful for the support from Richard and Vanessa Jordan, owners of the Wiscasset Speedway, for hosting this fundraising event. The Darling's Ice Cream for a Cause truck and the Wiscasset Elementary School P.I.E. were great additions to this FOS event.

## Paint Party! Let's do it again on February 8, 2019!

On Friday, May 11th 55 people started their Mother's Day weekend by painting a colorful mountain and lupine picture. Artists literally filled the Hall at St. Philip's Church for a fun evening with professional artist Sue Begin of Cre8tive Events, Augusta. Fueled by luscious, decadent desserts made by FOS volunteers, each painter learned artistic techniques and left with a beautiful and unique painting. Thanks to the Wiscasset Community Center and Ames Hardware Store for letting us spread the word about chronically hungry children in Wiscasset and sell tickets on their premises.



**Building on our success, a second Paint Party is scheduled for Friday, February 8, 2019 from 6- 8:30 pm as a prelude to Valentine's Day. Tickets are \$30 per person.**