



FOOD ON THE RUN

Providing Weekend Meals for Marlin Children

Why a Weekend Meal Program?

At Marlin Elementary, 526 students qualify for free (493) or reduced (33) lunch. Many of these families rely on meals provided at school in order to nourish their children. It is estimated that at least 120 of these children aren't eating adequate or nutritious meals from the time they leave school on Friday until they return on Monday. Kids can't learn anything on an empty stomach. Studies on backpack programs have proven them effective in increasing student performance and behavior in the classroom.

Marlin Food Planning Association

Convened by the Waco Regional Baptist Association, in partnership with the Texas Hunger Initiative, the Marlin Food Planning Association (FPA) began meeting in February, 2013. The FPA is a group of churches, organizations, school, and city leaders working together to ensure that everyone in Marlin has access to adequate, nutritious food, three meals a day, seven days a week. After completing a Community Food Security Assessment, we selected the weekend meal gap for children as our first focus area.

Program Details

Food on the Run is modeled after Snack Pak 4 Kids, a program that serves children in 16 school districts across the state. For more information, visit www.snackpak4kids.org. Food is purchased through a food-buying co-op with Labatt Food Services. Food is delivered to and stored at the Boys and Girls Club of Falls County. Volunteer groups pack bags bi-weekly. They are then delivered to Marlin Elementary, where they are stored in the Community in Schools' (CIS) room until Friday afternoon's distribution. We also have some students who collect their bags at the Boys and Girls Club.

Teachers, administrators, and other school personnel refer elementary children, Pre-K through fifth grade, to Mallory Herridge in the CIS office. Mallory sends a permission form home with students identified as demonstrating food insecurity (rushing food lines, extreme hunger on Monday morning, eating all food served, asking for seconds, commenting about not having food at home, etc.). Once parent permission is obtained, the student takes home a Food on the Run bag each Friday afternoon.

What's in the Bag?

We strive to provide nutritious food with easy preparation. Sample contents include: juice boxes, fruit cup, pop tart, cereal bars, peanut butter crackers, pop top proteins, pretzels, beef sticks, goldfish and animal crackers, etc. We also plan to work with the Capital Area Food Bank and the Community Gardens to include fresh produce.

How Do I get Involved?

Volunteer. We need volunteers bi-weekly to pack the bags. We also need volunteers to deliver the tubs of packed bags to the elementary school and return the tubs to the Boys and Girls Club. Volunteers are always needed when we are doing our annual fundraisers in June and September. Trisha Williamson is the Food on the Run Volunteer Coordinator. Contact Trisha at (254) 424-7895 or trishakay1954@yahoo.com.

Participate in our September Food Drive. We need your business, restaurant, church, organization, school and family to participate. Contact Trisha to volunteer.

Donate. Preparing our children to learn is essential for our community and Food on the Run is a way that we are accomplishing this. It is difficult or impossible to learn when you are hungry. Cost for weekend meals through Food on the Run is approximately \$3.50 child/weekend or \$182/child/year. The goal is to quickly reach 100 students, which will be a cost of \$350/weekend. The Waco Regional Baptist Association serves as the **fiscal agent** for Food on the Run. All donations may be made to WRBA with **Food on the Run on the memo line**. The address is Food on the Run, c/o WRBA, PO Box 1848, Waco, TX 76703. **All money** sent to WRBA in this manner **will be used in the Marlin Independent School District**.

Every June, we challenge every church and organization to contribute a \$2 donation per church family or employee. Please contact us that we may add you to the list.

Nan Ross is the Fundraising Coordinator for Food on the Run. Contact Nan at (936) 209-3090 or nan.ross4@yahoo.com.

Interested? Have Questions? Want to Know More?

Contact any of the following members of Food on the Run:

Mallory Herridge, Communities in Schools, Marlin Elementary School (254) 366 0108, mherridge@marlinisd.org Co-chair Food Planning Association

Trisha Williamson – Co-chair Food Planning Association (254) 424 7895, trishakay1954@yahoo.com

Nan Ross, Boys and Girls Club of Falls County (936) 208-3090, nan.ross4@yahoo.com

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