

TORNADO BUDDY BAGS

“We believe that no child should ever go hungry.”

MOUNT CARMEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT



HOW TO DONATE

Send checks payable to "Mount Carmel Area School District," c/o Pete Cheddar, Mount Carmel Area Superintendent, 600 West Fifth Street, Mount Carmel, PA 17851

- Or -

Make contribution online through the Mount Carmel Area Education Foundation

<http://www.mca.k12.pa.us/wp/mca-education-foundation/donate/>

Contact the Jr./Sr. Principals Office with any questions.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Tornado Buddy Bag Program began almost 4 years ago – February 2017. The program's mission was an urgent one: There were needy students in the Mount Carmel Area School District who didn't have enough to eat on weekends. The district wanted to remedy that.

These students already had access to free lunches and free breakfasts Monday through Friday during the school year, but they often went hungry between Friday afternoon and Monday morning. The district came up with the solution that is now being followed in a growing number of communities: Provide them, each Friday afternoon, with bags of nutritious food they can enjoy throughout the weekend, food items that require little or no preparation before eating.



FILLING THE GAP SO CHILDREN WON'T GO HUNGRY OVER THE WEEKEND



The program, which started small with 10 students served, has expanded to 40 students weekly – 30 in the junior-senior high school and 10 in the elementary school. Because of the generosity of individuals and organizations, Tornado Buddy Bag was also able

to continue operating throughout the summer of 2017 and over the Christmas holiday break. Enough money has been raised to fund the program through the end of school year.

To continue Tornado Buddy Bag at its same

level (60 students) for the 2019-2020 school year (including the summer of 2020), the school district needs to raise \$10,000. Public support is necessary, because the school district's operating budget is not able to support the program.

Tornado Buddy Bag is truly a success story for each student served, but to keep these individual success stories coming, the district is hoping for continued public support.

The Mount Carmel Area School District thanks these organizations for their financial support:

- The LOVE (Let Our Valley Eat) Project at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Susquehanna Valley
- UNB Bank in Mount Carmel
- Degenstein Foundation
- David Lloyd of the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank for his advice on starting up the program, and the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank for an initial start-up grant.
- Mother Maria Kaupas Center for a start-up grant and for its assistance with organization and fund-raising