

Seneca Falls Backpack Program, Inc. – President’s Annual Report 2011-2012

The 2011-2012 school year saw the further growth and refinement of the Seneca Falls Backpack Program, Inc. Our focus remained on our mission of feeding Seneca Falls children who live in food insecure households. We strove to increase not only the number of children we served but also the program efficiency. In both areas we succeeded.

A recent USDA study shows that 15 percent of Americans are food insecure and that 5.7 percent Americans experience “very low food security”¹ and those numbers are consistent with our experience within the program. With approximately 1200 students in the Seneca Falls School District, the number of school district students we helped hovered around 60, approximately 5 percent, during the 2011-2012 school year. Also after board approval, we embraced the students of Seneca County Head Start which is situated in Seneca Falls. This doubled our number of children served while brought our services to some children who do not reside within Seneca Falls.

The Program Coordinator, Paula Coffey, along with the Site Managers and distribution volunteers made great improvements with increasing the efficiency and, most importantly, the confidentiality of bag distribution to the children. We learned though our End-of-Year Survey that the teachers were pleased with the program and its level of confidentiality, feeling overall that the children who were served by the program benefited from it. We have also received favorable feedback from the principals of the schools we serve noting that the program is beneficial to the children and that the program has made improvements in our administration.

In February, we received word from the IRS that our 501(c)3 non-profit corporation status had been granted and by May we had received our New York State sales tax exemption certificate, making us the only independently operated backpack program in the greater Rochester area.

Our relationship with Foodlink, our partner organization also stabilized. With the addition of Larkin Kimmerer to the Foodlink team, we found our communication with Foodlink easier and the response time to our requests and inquiries, reduced. Larkin Kimmerer was also effective in informing us of the status of the Nutrikids grant, our main source of funding, as Foodlink continued to administer it striving to sustain the grant’s funding ability for as long a period of time as possible.

Finally once again we found the community very supportive. We have been able to maintain a level of funding that exceeds our needs at the moment. However we will need to be more assertive in our fund raising efforts to ensure the programs viability once the Nutrikids grant expires.

Overall , the 2011-2012 school year program was a great success and we look forward to continuing to feed the children in 2013 and beyond.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Wilkes, President

¹(<http://www.ers.usda.gov/media/884529/err-141-summary.pdf>)