



Bremerton Backpack Brigade

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Feeding Hungry Kids on the Weekends for 10 years!



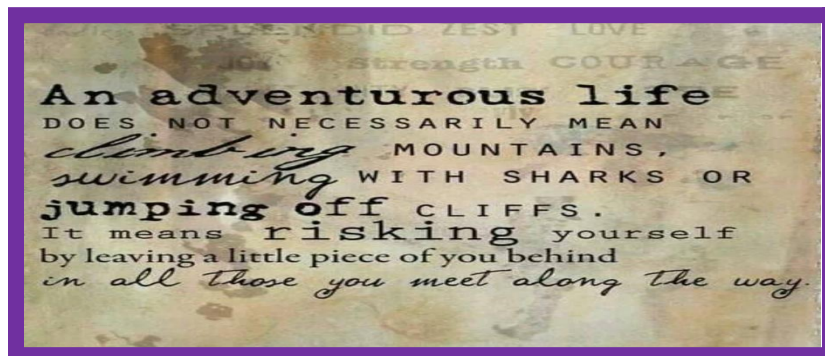
It's hard to say goodbye, The Brigade has had (*so far*) ten years of finding new and better ways to get food home to children in our community in need of food support on the weekends. It's been ten wonderful years, jam packed with friendships, food drives, fund raisers and fun. We've laughed and cried together, moved our pantry (six times!) together, built and nurtured strong connections within our community together and through all that, and more, the dedication of our volunteers and supporting community has never waived.

It's hard to say goodbye. I will miss the day to day camaraderie. The friendships and memories formed with people committed to making our community better, will be cherished forever. I will miss the thrill of meeting a challenge head on and persevering. I will miss speaking with small groups (defined as anyone who will hold still long enough) about the great work of the Brigade. I will definitely miss the satisfaction of feeling the difference we've made in the lives of the children we serve and I will relish knowing the good works will keep happening for years to come. .

Even though it's hard to say goodbye, knowing the dedication and competence of the team in place, who will carry on and move the Brigade to new heights of better service, will make all the goodbyes easier and already gives me much peace and pride.

What isn't hard, is looking forward to more time with my husband and family, planning vacations (especially spontaneous day trips that turn into weekend adventures), making my garden grow, creating more and more quilts, watching my grands and great grands grow, and maybe learning how to do water color painting. This new era of my life promises to be exciting and is definitely calling me to jump in.

My most heartfelt **Gratitude and Love** to all of you. for each being truly vital participants of this amazing journey. You have made a difference! xo's, myra b.



A note from our former Board Vice President and Media guru:

What a great 10-plus years I've spent with Myra Battin and the Bremerton Backpack Brigade.

We've met amazing folks over the years who have joined us in the fight against food insecurity among young school children. It has been fun serving as a vice president and in social media. We've watched it all grow, from serving 10 children to over 390. We've learned all kinds of things about nonprofits and fundraising and Web pages and Facebook. It's been amazing to watch folks come together to build a stronger and healthier community. We have volunteers now who were children in the program when the Backpack Brigade began. That is so great to see. I love the family-oriented spirit of the Brigade and am so thrilled with the new generation of leadership. Richard and I look forward to watching the Brigade reach ever-new heights in the coming years and we will love helping out. Thank you,
Ann Horn

Note to self: All you have to do is show up. Be late. Be scared. Be a mess. Be weird. Be confused. Just BE there. You'll figure out the rest as you go.

Nanea Hoffman

Thank You!!



Our volunteers make the Brigade's world go round! We are grateful for every one of you!!



A most heartfelt thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate 10 years of serving children in need in our community!!



Thank you to everyone who walked in the Armed Forces Day Parade with us and everyone who cheered us on!



The Brigade is very grateful to the Bremerton Foodline for donating over 600 pounds of food to help feed hungry kids.



Fred Meyer food drive, Saturday, June 3rd

You'll notice on the schedule below; we have two food drives scheduled for June 3rd. The food drive at Grocery Outlet is being facilitated by our wonderful friends from Kitsap Credit Union, but the one at Fred Meyer is up to the Brigade volunteers. Can we count on you to be the missing piece we need to put this Fred Meyer food drive puzzle together? Volunteers can claim a two-hour shift (see attached schedule for shifts available). Please let us know you're available to help by emailing Bremertonbackpackbrigade@gmail.com or tell us next time you're in the pantry. Food drives bring in about 50% of the



food we have on hand to send home to hungry kids. Two hours of your time that day, can make a world of difference to every child we serve.

End of the school year food box packout, Saturday, June 10th

On Saturday, June 10th, from 9am to noon, we will need volunteer help to pack up the end of the school year food boxes. We try to pack as much in those boxes as possible (better on the shelves of the families we serve, than leaving them over the summer on shelves in our pantry!). We'll be packing up 5,000 to 6,000 pounds of food in that one day and we'll need all the help we can get to fill as many as 200 boxes of food (feeding almost 400 children) packed. A team from the District warehouse will deliver them to the schools on Tuesday morning, June 13th so we just need to get the packing done on Saturday so everything is ready for delivery. Please let us know, via email



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BBB Event and Volunteer Calendar Through the School Year

- May 31st -- Prep Day at the pantry -- 9:30am
- June 2nd -- Pack and Deliver -- 9:30am
- June 3rd - Grocery Outlet Food Drive, facilitated by Kitsap Credit Union 9am - 4pm**
- June 3rd – Fred Meyer Food Drive, facilitated by Brigade Volunteers 8:30am - 4pm**
- June 7th & June 9th -- NO Wednesday Prep or Friday Delivery**
- June 7th -- BBB Board Meeting at the pantry -- 5:30pm
- June 10th – Saturday, End of the school year, Box Pack Out –9am – Noon**

BBB Board meetings are open to everyone. If you would like to attend a zoom board meeting, please contact our Board Secretary, Brooke Holst at:

brooke.holst@bremertonschools.org for an email link to join the meeting.

All have voice, members have vote.

Summer Break begins as soon as the last box is taped shut!