



Bremerton Backpack Brigade

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Feeding Hungry Kids on the Weekends for 10 years!



April 2023



Among the many Brigade happenings roaring around in my brain right now, the Kitsap Great Give is perhaps the most important.

← The **Kitsap Great Give**, April 11, is 24 hours of online giving, from 12am to 12pm. (Actually, early giving began April 1st) The Brigade is one of many local nonprofits participating, and for us, this is our biggest fund raiser of the year. Go to KitsapGreatGive.org, find the Brigade's profile and press the donate "button" if you'd like to help. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 dollars (about a quarter of next school year's budget). Your donations now, make a huge difference in the Brigade's ability, next school year, to continue to provide supplemental weekend food support for families in our community living with food insecurity. Please know we will be over the moon grateful for all financial support (of any size) you can offer!

The following pages are filled with a lot of the other things happening between now and the end of this school year. You'll find the schedule of dates for pantry work and fun stuff on the last page, and lots of gratitude for and pictures of food drives and the donations of materials necessary to keeping the Brigade humming along, in between. I wish I knew a different language or had better command of this one, to express what the gifts of time and treasure mean to the Brigade. We are privileged have a truly unique prospective on the nature of people through our work. News channels are too often filled with bad news, but in Brigade Land, we are inundated with good news! We witness people taking time from busy lives to volunteer, people sharing their treasure with us, and people sharing the victory of "graduating" from our program after gaining better employment. We, at the Brigade feel genuinely privileged to have this amazing window into the true nature of our neighbors and friends throughout this great community. Thank You!



and



Bremerton
Backpack
Brigade

Invite you to a
Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

At the Manette Saloon on May 13th, 4-7 pm
~ 2123 East 11th St. ~

Come celebrate the Tenth Anniversary of the Brigade feeding hungry children in our community. Help honor the work of retiring founders Ann Horn and Myra Battin.

\$15 admission includes spaghetti with meat sauce, salad, and bread.

Buy \$1 raffle tickets for great prizes!
Bring the whole family



SCAN ME

Buy tickets
now
or
cash, card &
checks at
the door

For me personally, this event may be the most prevalent on my mind. After months of consideration, I've decided it's time to retire as Director of the Brigade. My friend and fellow founder, Ann Horn, has come to the same decision. We will both be leaving this work at the end of this school year. We have spent ten years together nurturing and visioning this work into being. We started out incredibly innocent, in terms of what would be necessary and expected of us to run a business, even a non-profit business, in a world of increasing technology and ever rising need. We had a dream and we took baby steps to pursue that dream, until someone (actually LOTS of "someones") over the years patiently showed us ways to make GIANT steps toward those dreams of feeding hungry kids. There are hundreds and hundreds of thank yous to be spoken outloud and lots of stories to share. Come to the Spaghetti Feed May 13th 4 to 7pm, at the Manette Saloon and celebrate 10 years of the Brigade feeding kids, growing up, making friends, and building relationships. With the help of literally hundreds of others, Ann and I have worked determinedly towards building a meaningful, purpose driven organization and now it's time to step aside and let others move it into the future. And don't worry, there are many, many extraordinary, dedicated, people ready to continue this work for as long as there are hungry children to be fed. The Brigade lives on!!!



Our most Heartfelt gratitude to all the people and organizations who have helped make the Brigade's work happen this last month.

Kiwanis of Bremerton



Kiwanians packed dental hygiene bags for each of the 380+ children the Brigade serves. The little gift bags went home in the Spring Break Boxes, just in time for Easter.

The Bremerton Backpack Brigade Volunteers



Delivering love, one backpack of food at a time.



Food Drive at Fred Meyer in Bremerton



Just a few of the wonderful volunteers who gave their time in March collecting food at Fred Meyer, in Bremerton, and in our pantry to sort, weigh and put the 5400+ pounds of food donated that day.



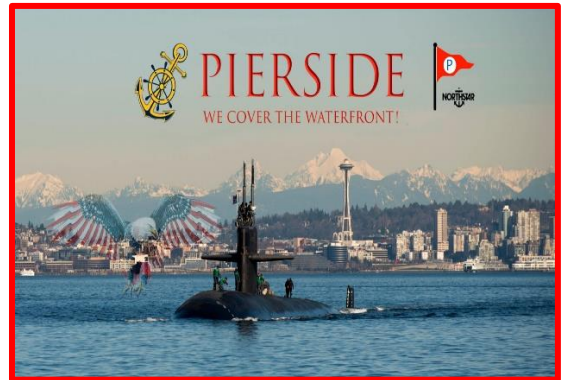
Grocery Outlet March Food Drive



Grocery Outlet allows the Brigade to hold a food drive at their store on the first Saturday of every month. We are very grateful.



Pierside Productions



Pierside Productions, and Caemela Kulbeth, have donated over 150 sturdy, new backpacks for the Brigade's use to send food home to children living with food insecurity.



BBB Event and Volunteer Calendar Through the School Year

April 3rd through the 7th is Spring Break.

➔ April 11th – **The Kitsap Great Give** 24 hours online -- midnight April 10th to midnight April 11th

April 12th -- Prep Day at the pantry -- 9:30am

*April 12th - Zoom BBB Board meeting -- 5:30pm

April 14th – Pack and Delivery Day at the pantry -- 9:30am

April 19th – Prep Day at the pantry -- 9:30am

April 21st – Pack and Delivery Day at the pantry -- 9:30am

April 26th – Prep Day at the pantry -- 9:30am

April 28th – Pack and Deliver at the pantry -- 9:30am

May 3rd -- Prep Day at the pantry -- 9:30am

May 5th -- Pack and Deliver at the pantry. -- 9:30am

➔ May 6th -- **Grocery Outlet food drive, facilitated by a Scout Troop** 9am – 4pm

May 10th – Prep Day at the pantry --9:30am

*May 10th – Zoom BBB Board meeting -- 5:30pm

May 12th -- Pack and Deliver at the pantry -- 9:30am

➔ May 13th -- **SAVE THE DATE! FUNd Raiser** at the Manette Saloon 4pm – 7pm

May 17th -- Prep Day at the pantry -- 9:30am

May 19th -- Pack and Deliver at the pantry -- 9:30am

➔ May 20th -- **Armed Forces Day Parade, BBB is signed up to participate** 10am – 3pm

May 24th -- Prep Day at the pantry -- 9:30am

May 25th -- Pack and Deliver at the pantry -- 9:30am

May 31st -- Prep Day at the pantry -- 9:30am

June 2nd -- Pack and Deliver or delivery -- 9:30am

➔ June 3rd -- **Grocery Outlet Food Drive facilitated by Kitsap Credit Union** 9am - 4pm

June 7th & June 9th -- NO Prep or Delivery

*June 7th -- Zoom BBB Board meeting -- 5:30pm

June 10th – Saturday, Box pack out for end of the school year boxes, at the pantry 9am – noon

*BBB Board meetings are open to the public. All have voice, members have vote.

To attend; contact Brooke.Holst@bremertonschools.org

(➔) **We really, really, need your help!!**

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

Just some of our favorite pictures!



Non profit showcase
We WON first prize
as most popular!



Kidzz Helping Kidzz
working at the pantry!



Surprise baby shower for one
of our faithful Wednesday crew.



One of our littlest
helpers, hard at
work.