



The 69th Hour

Tampa End 68

Holiday 2018 Edition

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**May you have the gladness of
Christmas which is hope; The
spirit of Christmas which is
peace; The heart of Christmas
which is love.**

Ada V. Hendricks

By the Numbers

We have packed for as many as 500 children in recent packs. That's about 175 families. To get an idea of the staggering numbers, picture the 1000 packets of oatmeal or 1000 snacks that are needed each week. The menu varies; some weeks rice and beans and others mac and cheese. Twice a month backpacks and bags include meals from Feeding Children Everywhere which are provided at bi charge to us by corporate donations to their special projects. We recently became partners with Feeding America Tampa Bay; their food is somewhat limited by the sizes we need so that kids can carry them.

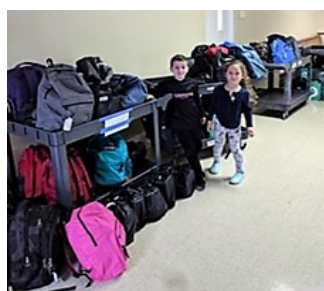
We want to express our appreciation and gratitude to each and every one of you for your dedication to and care of the children who have been entrusted to our care. The efforts are so successful because of the joyful service that each of you brings to this task.

We have officially become 'big'. We now have 5 packing teams each week and each team packs between 30 and 40 bags and backpacks. It takes the efforts of about 10-15 people to deliver to the schools. We have some folks who deliver week in and week out and others who deliver once or twice a month. A special shout out those of you who braved the elements on Thursday the 20th so kids would have two days to get their extra Christmas food home.

In addition to packers and deliverers, we now have people that come in on Saturday to help with getting backpacks organized and ready to be filled. We are also indebted to Mark Johnson and the Gasparilla race for the bags that we use.

We have benefitted from the work of many and are grateful to Hyde Park

Presbyterian Church for hosting our pantry, our packing room, and the many volunteers that make the program work.



Children from Sullivan Partnership School sent thank you notes to us, their "Food Bag Friends". Sullivan gets more than 30 backpacks each week and children there are in transition from the homeless program at Metropolitan Ministries. A few of their notes are reproduced below.



Thank you so much for the food bags. I appreciate you guys giving food bags. I have a lot of food so I don't have to worry about getting enough food.

Thank you for the food bag. We appreciate your support and time.

Thank you food bag friends for the food bags. My favorite thing about the good bags are the cracker—Polly want a cracker?

Thank you for the food bags. You have nice cars.

Thank you for the food. I really appreciate it. Thank you for your time and kindness. Thank you again and I hope you have an awesome Merry Christmas!

Thank you for the food bag. I wish that you keep the noodles in the bag.

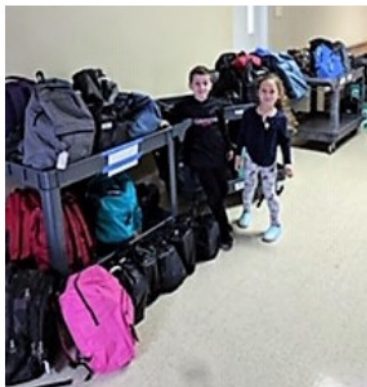
Thank you for all the food you give us. My favorite is those gummies. I love all the food you give us.

Thank you for all the food you give us. You are so thoughtful and nice, also sweet like a candy cane. I hope you will have a good Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thank you for the food bags. I appreciate your kindness. The food is amazing. !! Merry Christmas,



GLIMPSES





Above and Beyond

Recently we ran really low on Feeding Children Everywhere Meals. While there is a warehouse in Longwood, FL there was no corporation in Tampa packing meals that we could use. With Christmas vacation coming, those meals were vital. Enter packing team captain Lynda Waters. Her friend, Bess Anderson, owns Tampa Bay Transport. Lynda made the call to Bess who agreed to donate transportation from Longwood and deliver the packages to the packing room. Thanks to both of you!



We also want to recognize the kindergarten at

St. Mary's School. Instead of gifts for their birthday, a student asked for backpacks for us!! Their classmates were very generous. And some moms from there donated packs as well. What a blessing! Thanks.



Many groups have donated food to help us out so far this school year. We are most grateful to them for their donations. Last year, over 70% of the <60,000 meals we provided were donated.

Hillsborough County Clerk's Office
Quarles and Brady
Hyde Park Presbyterian Church
Tanner Paint
The Mason Building
Thomas and LoCicero
Chase Bank
Winn Dixie
Grady Elementary School
Feeding Children Everywhere
Folks who left food in the bins outside our packing room

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