

philanthropy in the neighborhood

Jane Phillips & Laurie Jahnke Hutchings

Share Their Passion for Helping PORCH - Durham

By Anna Brown

In 2011, PORCH-Durham began collecting donations of food that supported the InterFaith Food Shuttle's Backpack Buddies Program. A year later, PORCH-Durham was in need of volunteers, so neighbors Jane Phillips and Laurie Jahnke Hutchings joined other Hope Valley volunteers to collect food in the neighborhood. Since then, they have both continued to collect monthly food donations in New Hope Valley, and Jane became a board member.

PORCH-Durham began after the success of PORCH (People Offer-

ing Relief for Chapel Hill-Carrboro Homes) in Chapel Hill-Carrboro. PORCH sends volunteers to gather donated food items that individuals and families leave on their porches once a month for pick-up. Each month, PORCH-Durham collects 3,000-4,000 pounds of donated food. Donated foods are still used largely for the Backpack Buddies Program, which packs food into backpacks for food insecure children who rely largely on free and reduced lunches for nourishment. Students take the

backpacks home each Friday afternoon to bridge their nutrition over the weekend. In addition to aiding students, PORCH also supports various food pantries in Durham and provides food-filled back-

packs to food insecure children enrolled in summer camps throughout Durham County.

"[Nutrition] is a critical factor in the learning process, which helps young people become future healthy adults and an integral part of our society," Laurie says. According to PORCH-Durham's website, about 50% of elementary school students in Durham are enrolled in free or reduced lunches and are at risk for food insecurity outside of school. Durham residents like Laurie and Jane are turning this staggering statistic into an opportunity for positive change. "The collection day is a perfect example of the goodness and the desire to help that Durham demonstrates," adds Jane.

PORCH-Durham always welcomes donors and volunteers. Volunteers collect food donations in their neighborhood on each month's third Monday morning,

BackPack Buddies

\$12.50
Feeds a child
for a **WEEKEND**

\$50
Feeds a child
for a **MONTH**

AVERAGE COST PER BOOKBAG:

2 Proteins	\$1.40
2 Vegetables.....	\$2.00
1 Fruits.....	\$1.25
3 Milk	\$4.00
2 Juice	\$0.75
2 Noodles	\$1.00
2 Breakfast Items	\$0.50
2 Snacks.....	\$0.40

Costs are approximate.



coordinate volunteers for collection days, and deliver food to summer camps, schools, and pantries. In addition to donations of food, PORCH gladly accepts monetary donations to purchase specific foods that ensure backpack recipients have access to a balanced array of foods. Checks made out to PORCH-Durham can be mailed to 10 Paradise Place, Durham, NC 27705. Visit <<https://durham.porchcommunities.org/get-involved/>> to learn more about opportunities to donate and volunteer.

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