



NO CHILD SHOULD BE HUNGRY
Matthew 25:31-40



Feed the Kids Organizing, Planning, Shopping and Packing

Guidelines for Churches

Feed the Kids is a grass-roots volunteer ministry that purchases, packs, and delivers food bags weekly to schools where students have been identified as having little or no food at home.

The number of students varies according to students moving in and out of the school, the evaluations made by the Counselors and Teachers recommending students needing food, and parental concurrence that food bags are needed and welcomed into the home. The number of schools may expand as students are identified and resources are available.

1. Volunteers and Food Collection

Feed the Kids volunteers come from the communities near the schools. We encourage inviting family, friends, and neighbors to join us in packing. Churches are the lead sponsors of the teams with resources of dollars, food donations, volunteers, and being the liaison with the school.



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The partnership of multiple churches joining together maximizes the workload and finances to enable service to more students.

Churches publish or announce the program and the dates and times for packing. A regularly scheduled day and time for packing works best. Bags are generally delivered weekly throughout the school year. A donation spot at the church can be set up so people can purchase and donate foods. Arrangements can be made with the church treasury for financial donations designated to the FTK ministry.

Churches can establish their own process for partnering with another church and how the handling of funds and food donations, shopping, and facility for packing are arranged. Some churches alternate the shopping after one person plans the menus. Planning includes balancing the quantities and types of food so both churches share the responsibility equally.

“Grocery lists” are published of items we use regularly to help those who like to shop and donate items. Non-perishable foods are purchased for a longer shelf life, food safety, and sanitation. Many donations are made by individuals who pick up items on their own. We appreciate and use everything we are given.

Periodically apples, carrots, or oranges are provided for packing. When we have these items, the bags are distributed the same day to the schools.

Pricing per serving, sales, and types of foods are recorded to help the shoppers. Most shopping occurs at Sam’s, Walmart, Costco, and Smith’s. We attempt to vary the menus and types of food hoping to provide something for everyone’s taste.

6. Donations and Funding for FTK

Each church is expected to financially support their FTK ministry as best they can. Financial support from individuals, within a particular church, stays at that church to help cover costs related to food purchase for their program. Additional funding may be requested through CBA and the FTK Advisory Team when necessary.

Any donations that are made from outside sources (sources other than through a participating FTK church) will be made to Central Baptist Association designated for “Feed the Kids.” The FTK Advisory Team will make determination as to how those funds are distributed so to maximize the effectiveness of the FTK ministry.

Contact Information:

FTK Ministry Team Leader:

Central Baptist Association:

www.cbanm.org

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5. Participating churches responsibilities with FTK

- a. Openness in how we can best support and help you get established and launch your FTK ministry.
- b. Willingness to share what you learn from your program to help others learn and further refine the model and processes.
- c. Reporting to FTK/CBA on a monthly (or timeframe to be agreed upon) of how the funds, numbers supported, and any other pertinent details for resources is progressing.
- d. Seeking support and help in resolving issues, needs, and questions as soon as possible so we can keep you going and not be discouraged.
- e. Some funds may available upon request for use for a churches FTK ministry.
- f. Any funds requested from the designated fund of FTK through CBA will be determined through discussion with the FTK Advisory Board. These funds are designated for supporting new churches and schools to launch and get established. Other needs will be considered on an individual basis upon request to support the FTK ministry.

The FTK ministry is a “Bridge Ministry” of CBA and a local church. That means that by meeting the needs of students through the FTK program a church develops a positive relationship with their local school which builds trust and opens doors to help meet other needs the school and community may have.

Though a church cannot directly evangelize through the FTK ministry, they may be able to, upon the approval of the local principal, insert information about events and programs of the church.

Large size boxes and bags of some foods are purchased and divided into individual portions. This is done to save money, stretch supplies, and provide a variety of foods.

Plastic shopping bags are doubled and used to hold the foods. They must be strong enough to carry the approximately 3 pounds of food we send home with each child. Once the bags are packed, they are double tied. When schools have a break, we pack extra food which results in the weight and cost being higher than a normal school schedule.

Menus are planned with as much nutritional value as possible, while the overarching goal is to fill up the students, ensuring they have something they can eat when they are not at school. We don't know the circumstances in the homes, so we plan foods that the students can open, microwave, or mix with water/milk themselves. This gives us a larger degree of certainty that the students can take care of getting their own snacks and meals.

2. Logistics for meeting and packing

For a normal two-day weekend, we pack 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners, and snacks.

Recently we have begun sending larger bags of some food items, such as pasta and spaghetti sauce for the families to cook together. This works in some households and stretches what we are able to do to help others at home. This is also a cost savings on the food item and takes into consideration the environment that the child has access to stove/kitchen. For those without access to a stove/kitchen, we need to buy only microwave-able foods.

Volunteers divide the following duties:

1. Repackaging of the larger food items into baggies or portion cups. (As per process document.)
2. Opening the boxes and bags and setting up the “assembly line” for packing.
3. Doubling the plastic shopping bags.
4. Packing the bags.
5. Loading the bags into the cars for delivery.
6. Delivering to the schools

3. Establishing School Connections

In the schools we work with a Liaison, Counselor, and/or Nurse as our Point of Contact. They do all the evaluations and screening to identify the students who need help. They also have access to records of any food allergies so they can let us know if there are any students with peanut or fish allergies. We are not given the names of the students at these schools; this protects their privacy and takes any burden of evaluation from us.

The schools have worked with the parents for approval of their child receiving a food bag. In a few cases food bags are refused and we will respect their choice.

The number of food bags can vary week to week or month to month, because students tend to move in and out of schools. After packing the bags, any extra food is kept at the school for emergencies. Every child in the program receives a bag whether there are one, two, three, or more students in the family.

Teachers and staff ensure the students get their bags each week. If the child is absent, the teacher makes sure the bag gets to the student when they return to school.

4. FTK responsibilities for participating churches

- a. Introduction to the schools in their neighborhood if they do not already have a relationship.
- b. Guidance from the Team Leader of FTK for what has been modeled in other churches and schools, insights of what has worked well, grocery lists, menus, pricing per serving, and any other information that has been developed for support in planning and shopping.
- c. Training of the teams to help tailor the program to fit their church and school. Working directly with the volunteers to share what the program involves, examples of how this has worked in other churches/schools, and the logistics and hands on of shopping, packing, and delivering.
- d. Continuous prayer, support, and connection to encourage, help with questions and gaps that need support, and any other issues that need help.
- e. Seed dollars to help a church launch and get established, especially when the church steps out in faith and says – Now, let’s do this! The seed dollar amount will be determined through discussion with the church and the FTK Advisory Team.
- f. Other things as requested by the churches will be accommodated as much as possible – each situation is dependent upon FTK resources.