

How to Make A LOVE Party (Let Our Valley Eat)

Why Have a Party?

- Children in your area don't have food for the 68 hours between Friday Lunch and Monday Breakfast at school
- There are programs that address those food insecurity needs.
- In one quick evening, we can raise money to feed hungry kids.
- You can have a potluck with your friends and do something kind and generous at the same time
- You can teach your kids that we help when we can

What's in the Party Pack?

- A link to a wonderful, short film on Hunger in the Susquehanna Valley
- Placemat (template)
- Incentive Cards (template)
- Stories about kids whose lives are different thanks to Weekend Backpacks
- Some statistics about what happens when kids go hungry.
- Information about Love Flows, child hunger and what you can do to help children in our Valley.
- Links to donate on line and address to send a check.

What do we need to know?

- \$10 will feed a child for a month
- \$10 a year will feed a child for a year
- \$1000 will feed a class for a year

Some people will tell you that the government should handle hungry children. Others will tell you that these children must have bad parents. We all have a viewpoint. But here's one inescapable truth: Children are hungry. We can feed them. We can't change the whole world, but we can change their world.

Together, we can become the Valley with No Hungry Children. What could be better? Thank you so much for your help.

Reasons to Give Parties Full of Love

Thanks to the Bucknell University Film class of 2014 who put together the movie you'll be watching this evening and to all the folks who participated.

Thanks to Marjorie Priceman, Caldecott Medal Honoree and illustrator extraordinaire, for her wonderful images of children both hungry and not.

Thanks to Jen Curley for designing the logo, placemats, cards and storyboards.

Thanks to the Caring for Kids program in Shikellamy school district, which brought this project to our attention.

Thanks to all of you, who know that children should never go hungry, who are willing to help us become the Valley with No Hungry Children. Here are the Valley statistics from 2013-2014 to help you understand the magnitude of the problem.

School District	Enrollment	Free Lunch	Reduced Lunch	% Free Lunch	% Reduced Lunch	% Free & Reduced Enrollment
Benton	700	235	55	33.57	7.86	41.43%
Berwick	2,936	1,266	218	43.12	7.43	50.54
Bloomsburg	1,607	633	148	39.39	9.21	48.60
Central Columbia	1,811	423	89	23.36	4.91	28.27
C-M AVTTS	624	237	43	37.98	6.89	44.87
Millville	681	206	49	30.25	7.20	37.44
Southern	1,499	290	60	19.35	4.00	23.35
Danville	2,430	701	138	28.85	5.68	34.53
Line Mountain	1,238	358	98	28.92	7.92	36.83
Milton	2,189	1,075	159	49.11	7.26	56.37
Mt. Carmel	1,500	748	160	49.87	10.67	60.53
Shamokin	2,476	1,302	201	52.58	8.12	60.70
Shikellamy	3,060	1,351	209	44.15	6.83	50.98
Warrior Run	1,567	384	144	24.51	9.19	33.69
Midd-West	2,032	803	170	39.52	8.37	47.88
Selinsgrove	2,773	900	196	32.46	7.07	39.52
Lewisburg	1,909	395	75	20.69	3.93	24.62
Mifflinburg	2,136	672	187	31.46	8.75	40.22

What we've found out from one school is that there's about a 90 percent correlation between free and reduced lunch figures and food insecurity on the weekends. It's important for districts to know that if more than 40 percent of their kids are on free and reduced lunch, their district can receive free breakfast and lunch for all students. And if one school's percentages are higher, that school can receive free meals for all their kids. But those 68 hours between Friday lunch and Monday breakfast are on us.

This is why we support <http://loveflows.net> and they support the Weekend Backpack programs with their LOVE Project (Let Our Valley Eat). We can't change the whole world, but we can change our children's weekends and make sure that each child has food to eat.

With Deep Gratitude to all of you who are willing to help from all of us at the UUCSV and Love Flows: The LOVE Project (Let Our Valley Eat).

From Love Flows to The LOVE Project (Let Our Valley Eat)

Love Flows began in November 2012 as a project by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Susquehanna Valley (UUCSV) to help Staten Island residents recover from the devastation of Superstorm Sandy. We understood the importance of individual help because a year earlier, our river Valley had been ravaged by a hurricane. For six months after Sandy, we raised almost \$25,000 and providing food, tools, building materials, clothing, household items, rent relief, and senior housing to victims of Sandy. The amount was a drop in the bucket of the overwhelming need. However, for a church and a Valley of our size, this was a generous contribution to the recovery effort. For the people and organizations receiving support, it meant the world.

In November 2013, we focused on hunger in the Central Susquehanna Valley. Chapter 2 in the Love Flows story would be the **LOVE** Project, (Let Our Valley Eat). We're helping to tackle the enormous amount of weekend hunger our Valley schoolchildren endure.

Luckily there are programs being developed to begin to address food insecurity with Weekend Backpack Programs in many communities (although more are needed). We're free to do what we do best in these situations – raise money to support programs already in action.

- When we can, we use grocery cards to leverage our purchasing power for the organizations we're supporting.
- Any discount we get on those cards is added to the funds we've raised. (Your money is worth more to our children!)
- Every penny we raise goes to feed the children.
- All administrative costs are born by the UUCSV. (negative overhead)

We're raising money every way we can think of, because children are hungry. This is why you've been invited to a LOVE Party. If we ask you to feed our hungry children– and you ask people you know, and so on, and so on, we can become the Valley with No Hungry Children. With your help, this is achievable. Together we can do this

This is why we created <http://loveflows.net> to support the Weekend Backpack programs. We can't change the whole world, but we can become the Valley with No Hungry Children. Think about it. Donate. Ask your friends. Host a party. Let the Love Flow...