



It Takes a Village to Fight Hunger

The Fredericksburg Food Bank recently took time to recognize its staff, volunteers, community partners, and commercial partners—the many “difference makers” who work together to address the food challenge in the Fredericksburg area.

I was proud to represent Lions Club District 24-L, along with members of the Spotsylvania Courthouse 100, Spotsylvania, and Greater Falls Run Lions Clubs. The meeting was a wonderful reminder that it takes a village to make a difference in the lives of people facing food insecurity. Every organization, business, volunteer, and individual has a role to play.

One issue discussed at the meeting especially caught my attention. Many schools have children who may have enough food during the school week but go home for the weekend to a food-challenged situation. The suggestion was made that we look for ways to provide these children with take-home packages of nutritious snacks and food for the weekend.

I would like to encourage Lions Clubs—and, where appropriate, Lions Zones—to consider “adopting” a school and working with that school to provide weekend food or snack packages for children who need them.

For Lions Clubs in the Spotsylvania, Fredericksburg, and King George areas, I would also encourage you to look into Spreading Smiles and its Weekend Meal Bag Program. More information is available at spreadingsmilesfxbg.org.

A well-fed child is better able to concentrate, learn, and succeed in school. By helping provide food over the weekend, we can help ensure that children return to school ready to learn rather than worrying about where their next meal will come from.

Thank you to all of you who give your time, resources, and energy to help fight hunger in our communities.

It truly takes a village—and Lions can be an important part of that village.

Thank you all for your service.

Jim Hoyt, District 24-L Hunger Chairman