PIVOTING TO COVID-19 SUPPORT TO STUDENTS & FAMILIES

Mobilizing volunteer drivers to safely deliver weekly meals to thousands of families facing food insecurity
DPS FOUNDATION

is a nonprofit organization that builds community support and investment in our public schools. DPSF was launched by civic, business and education leaders in fall 2018.

DPSF priorities are (1) fostering equity through innovation, (2) investing in our students, educators and families, and (3) championing public schools to encourage more families to enroll in DPS.

Our key activities include grants for innovative projects in schools, a Teacher Leadership Academy, a Youth Advisory Council that's designing an youth equity summit, and policy and advocacy.

OUR MISSION

is to catalyze big ideas and foster community engagement that will accelerate the transformation of Durham Public Schools to ensure success and equity for every student.
DPS Foundation capacity

HISTORY
DPSF launched in fall 2018 and hired its founding Executive Director in January 2019.

STAFF
- 1 full-time salaried staff member (Executive Director)
- 2 AmeriCorps VISTAs
- 2 part-time contract staff (Development & Communications and School Partnerships)

PARTNERS
DPSF engages a large number of volunteers and works in collaboration with other nonprofits and the school district.
The day after DPS announced school closures in response to coronavirus, we put up a donation portal for dedicated relief funds and began designing an approach to meet the most urgent need facing our students and their families - food insecurity.

Pivoting our work to meet the urgent need

Within a week of schools closing, DPSF:
- raised over $110,000 from over 840 donors
- recruited over 820 volunteers
- deliver 4,000 family meals to nearly 1,000 households
Sharing this approach
If other counties are interested in this approach...

DPSF & Code the Dream could provide:

- **PROJECT PLAN** detailing the steps to put the infrastructure in place, sample budget & suggested weekly schedule and roles/responsibilities to be filled

- **BILINGUAL FAMILY SIGN-UP FORM** with address validation and built-in mapping feature to create delivery routes

- **TEMPLATES FOR VOLUNTEER ORGANIZING**, including Google sign-up form, health & safety guidelines, driver waiver form, and sample email communications

- **GUIDE FOR USING MASS TEXTING PLATFORM** to communicate with families receiving meals

- **TECHNICAL SUPPORT**, such as regular phone calls, for implementing these tools and troubleshooting issues

Counties would need:

- **NONPROFIT PARTNER** that can provide capacity to implement tools and organize volunteers. DPSF's core organizing team to manage the project includes 3 staff working approx. 40 hrs/wk., 2 staff 20 hrs/wk., 3 volunteers 10 hrs/wk.

- **VOLUNTEER BASE** to do deliveries (DPSF had over 800 people sign-up to volunteer - people want to help their neighbors!)

- **FOOD PARTNERS** which could be local restaurants and/or food relief orgs that provide shelf-stable food

- **FUNDS** to cover food and supplies expenses (the project can have minimal costs if you provide shelf-stable food and donated food instead of restaurant meals)
We are raising funds for DPS and DPS Foundation to immediately address needs as they arise. The first priority has been delivering weekend meals to families facing food insecurity. This reduces the risk of congregation at a central pick-up location and minimizes the need for families to leave their homes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DPS COVID-19 RAPID RESPONSE FUND</th>
<th>FAMILY SIGN-UP FOR FOOD RELIEF</th>
<th>VOLUNTEER DELIVERY DRIVERS</th>
<th>PARTNERING WITH CATERERS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Allows DPS to access immediate, flexible funds to meet urgent meal and instructional needs as they identify them.</td>
<td>DPS and non-profit partners sent the family sign-up form to every family in DPS. 1,000 families signed up in first 48 hours.</td>
<td>Deliveries are contact-less; drivers drop off the meals at the door. Over 800 people have signed-up to volunteer and 100 delivered meals the first weekend.</td>
<td>We partnered with local restaurants and caterers to provide cooked, nutritious meals. This has added benefit of keeping their employees working.</td>
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Infrastructure

**FAMILY SIGN-UP FORM**
Partnered with Code the Dream to create bilingual form with address validation to ensure they were accurate and could be quickly plotted on Google maps.

**MASS TEXTING FAMILIES**
Utilized a mass texting platform to let families know when to be expecting a meal drop-off.

**VOLUNTEER DRIVER SIGN-UP FORM**
Includes health and safety guidelines based on CDC recommendations that volunteers agree to when they sign-up and again on the day of delivery.
First weekend of meal deliveries
March 20 & 21 (the first week DPS was closed)

1,000 family meal kits (food for 4) were delivered to nearly 1,000 households across Durham

100 volunteer drivers made contact-less deliveries, leaving food at families' doors

Health precautions included giving drivers plastic gloves and hand sanitizer and sanitizing their car doors and steering wheels
Serving families through duration of school closures

DPS Foundation now has the funding, partnerships and infrastructure to serve at least 1,500 families facing food insecurity for at least the next 3 months.

Over the coming months, DPSF is committed to:

- **Providing Weekend Meals to 1,500+ Families**
  - Local restaurants will provide a cooked dinner for the family (cost $3.75/ per person).
  - Non-profit partners Interfaith Food Shuttle & Kid Bright USA provide shelf-stable food and produce.

- **Utilizing Volunteers to Deliver**
  - Our team mapped addresses and put together driver lists based on geography.
  - We use about 120 volunteer drivers each weekend; each driver makes about 12 deliveries.

- **Adding Non-Food Resources**
  - We're building partnerships to be able to include non-food resources with our deliveries. This may include grade-level books and toiletries.

- **Filling Food Gaps for School District**
  - DPS staff have a holiday on Monday, 4/13 and won't be providing food. DPS Foundation will step in to provide food to approx. 5,000 students with the greatest need.
WHAT'S NEXT

CONTINUING MEAL DELIVERY
Provide weekend meals to 1,500+ families for the next two months, likely longer

EXPAND RESOURCES TO BE DELIVERED
Engaging DPS and other partners to consider additional resources that can be delivered with meals, like books and diapers

SHARE APPROACH WITH OTHER COUNTIES
If there is interest, DPSF and Code the Dream can create shareable versions of the tools and project plan so that other counties can quickly operationalize this approach
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If other counties are interested in adopting this approach, Code the Dream and DPS Foundation could create shareable versions of the tools and infrastructure that could be immediately implemented and provide technical support to groups implementing the approach.

Contact Magan Gonzales-Smith, magan@bullcityschools.org, for more information.