

HOPE OVER HUNGER

Kids Aid Newsletter - Fall 2022 Edition

A community solution to helping kids be kids.



WE ARE EXTRA THANKFUL THIS FALL!

Kids Aid is committed to helping kids be kids.

We are thrilled to be providing healthy family meals that are enough to share, simple to follow recipe cards, yummy snacks to enjoy, quick and easy breakfasts, and smiles with every bag we send home.

We are working hard to establish connections with every site we serve. Relationships are being built and fostered with our Site Coordinators, thus resulting in stronger bonds and better communication with the students in our community. We even held a small "Can Opener Drive." We now have some can openers on hand and can include them when schools request them for kids in need.

We are continuing our efforts to source and distribute healthy, tasty foods. We have added shelf-sustainable yogurt and cheese sticks to our bags this year as well as canned vegetables and fruit. We are grateful for our partnership with the Food Bank of the Rockies and their role in supplying many food items for us to choose from.

We are grateful for our community members. We can continue to provide food for kids, with your support. We are doing our very best to source our food wisely and keep bag costs down. Just \$4 will provide a weekend food bag for one child in need.



Kids Aid is grateful...

- For Wednesday and Thursday Crew members, committing to come serve our community's kids every single week.
- For our drivers, and their willingness to deliver food to over 73 locations this school year.
- For partnerships with many community organizations.
- For new board members with fresh ideas and willing hearts to serve our community.
- For full stomachs and happy hearts because of our food bags.



Greetings Kids Aid Family,

Executive Director

What a tremendous privilege it is to be part of such an incredible organization and family. I have thoroughly enjoyed my journey with Kids Aid since the fall of 2020. I am looking forward with hopeful anticipation of what the future holds for each of us who are connected to the mission as we do all we can to alleviate childhood hunger so kids can be kids.

As a former teacher and preschool director for fifteen years, I have seen first hand how hunger affects learning. I've also seen how difficult it can be for families to receive help, even when it is desperately needed. I've shared a story many times with our Site Coordinators about how I used to wrap up food in gift bags, stuff them with tissue paper, and give them to children in need as their "Friday Surprise." To some that seems silly, a waste, perhaps over the top. Though to me, it was a small way I could show that I cared about the children, their family, and their needs. I was and am still willing to go the extra mile.

That's the heart of Kids Aid. Caring and doing what it takes to serve others in need. Even the smallest act of kindness goes a long way. The story of how Kids Aid started touched my heart years ago. I started as a volunteer in the summer time with my three children. That volunteer opportunity has grown into a fantastic "job" which I am honored to have.

One of my goals as Executive Director is to show the heart of Kids Aid in all we do. It's as easy as filling bags of food and delivering them to schools, but it can also be so much more. It's caring. It's being creative and innovative with our methods and ideas. It's using our resources and finances wisely. It's the thoughtfulness and kindness when communicating and working with our volunteers. It's about cultivating relationships. It's about utilizing local resources when we are able. It's about partnering together to make living easier so that kids can be kids.

I am looking forward to being part of what Kids Aid will do in the future. I am hopeful that you'll come alongside us and continue to support this incredible organization. I am available for conversations about new growth opportunities and how you can be involved. I would love to open the warehouse for tours so you can see the heart of Kids Aid in action. Please reach out, get involved, ask questions, learn more, be partners with us, and most importantly share the heart of Kids Aid. Thank you for welcoming me as the new Executive Director. I will do my very best to continue making Kids Aid a program that you are proud of and willing to support.

With joy and hope for a great future,

Tessa Kaiser
Executive Director



Our board and staff

Emilee Powell, President
Sam Tilford, Vice President
Tom Eatwell, Treasurer
Crystal Garcia-Becenti, Secretary

Tessa Kaiser, Executive director
Mike Berry, Board Member
Harry Willson, Board Member
Lucas Ferguson, Board Member



New school year, new drivers needed.

Growing pains don't have to be painful. We need your help!

We are constantly adding new distribution locations. Therefore, we need to add new drivers too. Do you have 30-45 min to give on a Wed/Thurs? We would love to welcome you to the Kids Aid family of drivers. ♥

Consider having your organization/business adopt a school and share the driving responsibilities. Visit our website and volunteer with us www.kidsaidcolorado.org

THANK YOU!

Community Rooted and Funded

THANK YOU to those who have generously donated over \$1,000 this past year.

Fruita Rotary Club
Timberwolf Welding, Inc.
First Presbyterian Church
The Walmart Foundation
Keller Williams Colorado West Realty
Western Colorado Community Foundation
Joyce Hofman
Elevate Kids
Stanley and Larrayne Zygmunt
Bernie and Mary Beth Buescher
Grand Junction Rotary Club Foundation
High Country Beverage
Craig and Kathy Spoering
FCI Constructors
Grand Junction Kiwanis Foundation
The Kroger Co. Foundation
George Wheeler
Western Healthcare Alliance

Legacy Wealth Management
Kurt and Jerri Glenn
Doug Aden and Lorraine Jensen
Shelley Hyde
Donna Villers
Kerry Quinn
Francis and Kathryn Wilkinson
Stephen and Lysa Erkenbrack
Bri Renzi
Karen Davis and Mark Ledebur
Christine and Baird Brown
Carol Lawrence
Joyce Barnhill
Wilson Family Foundation
Clark and Mary Atkinson
Thom and Shari Seagren
Randy Pifer
John Potter

Colorado Lions Foundation
Mercer Automotive, Inc.
Primary Care Partners, Inc.
Brian Olson
Sam's Club
Robinson & Co. Realty
Michael and Dyann Blackburn
Junior Service League of Grand Junction
Mark Gardner and Tracy Hansen
The Clough Family Foundation
Roy Ness
Whitewater Building Materials
Robin Heil
The Foundation for a Stable Childhood
Harry Willson
Jim Langford
Linda Jordan



*Pictured above: 3 Hours + 3 Adults + 11 Kids (2 not pictured)
= 1,000 bags packed for the community!*

72,000+

Bags Filled
during the '21-'22 school
year and this summer!



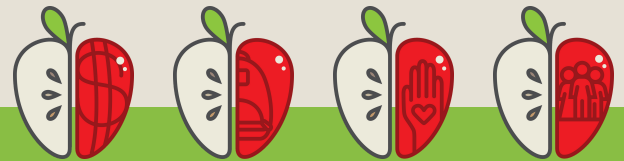
KIDS HELPING KIDS

What a privilege it is to provide a place where the next generation can learn to serve others, share kindness, be part of a team, and show others what community is all about.

If you'd like your children to be part of Kids Aid, contact our office. We do our best to accommodate groups of various sizes and ages.

Pictured above: Bag counting (age 7), restocking (age 10), and loading (age 13). Kids Aid kids are amazing!

Learn, Donate, Volunteer at kidsaidcolorado.org



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