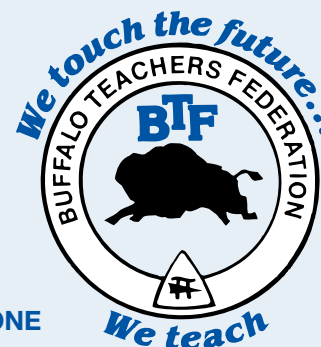


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DEDICATION
SOLIDARITY
PROFESSIONALISM
PRIDE
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Different This Year, BTF's 24th Annual Thanksgiving Drive Still Feeds More Than 200 Needy Families

For the 24th consecutive year, the Buffalo Teachers Federation has made Thanksgiving "a day of thanks" for more than 200 needy families in the Buffalo School District.

Thousands of dollars in food and gift certificates were donated by BTF members and distributed through several charitable and non-profit groups.

The annual event is held in an effort to "make sure those families enjoy a 'meal of thanks' on Thanksgiving Day", BTF President Phil Rumore explained.

"As we do each year, Buffalo teachers wanted to do their part to make sure families, who might otherwise

go without, enjoy their Thanksgiving meal," President Rumore said.

Under normal circumstances, the Thanksgiving food collections are held in many of the schools and teachers donate thousands of pounds of canned food and dry goods which are taken to the BTF office for distribution.

This year, however, because of Covid-19 restrictions causing most teachers to work from home, the annual event was a little different. Donors were asked to drop off goods at the BTF's delivery door. Both Hutch Tech and School 72 made generous contributions.

In addition, the volunteers, including students from Hutch Tech's JROTC classes who usually converge on the BTF to pack grocery bags with the items needed for a traditional Thanksgiving feast, did not gather for that task.

Instead, the BTF provided \$25 gift certificates so the families could purchase the food themselves.

"This is our 24th Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. This year, bags were not packed with canned

and packaged goods but rather, more easily distributed monetary donations were made by Buffalo teachers", Phil explained.

"Over 4000 families have benefited from the BTF Thanksgiving Food Drive. This is a wonderful way for all of us to give thanks for what we have. After all, isn't that what Thanksgiving is all about?", Phil continued.

The Thanksgiving Day meal donations were distributed to families through The Gloria Parks Community Center, Native American Community Services, Fulgham Family Foundation and City Mission.



TRUNK FULL OF THANKS:

Teachers and staff of Pathways Academy donated Thanksgiving dinner to seven of its neediest families. The holiday baskets included a turkey, stuffing, potatoes, cranberries, vegetables, rolls and pie. The items were collected and delivered to the students' homes by Kristin Cangialosi, the school Social Worker. The staff is also providing gifts and food to 15 students and their families for the winter holidays. Ms. Cangialosi canvassed the families to determine what was needed and then a list was generated for staff to purchase a gift for each member of the family, who might otherwise not have celebrated the holidays this year. The Pathways Academy has programs at Burgard, I-Prep, Riverside, South Park and East high schools.



Recipients of the BTF Thanksgiving Food Drive received gift certificates in the above festive envelope

BTF Continues Fighting for Teachers

Despite Buffalo teachers working hard to provide the best education and support possible to its students, the District seems intent on making life more difficult for its dedicated educators.

First, the District insisted teachers report to schools to teach two days per week, despite concerns about disinfecting issues. Then, they didn't notify teachers of reported Covid-19 cases in the buildings.

But, after hearing the BTF's concerns, the District has agreed to notify staff of reported Covid-19 cases in its buildings.

Next, the District decided to enact late, confusing and problematic grading changes after many teachers already filed their grades. However, after the BTF notified Superintendent

Kriner Cash of teachers' concerns, grading deadlines were extended.

Other issues the BTF is currently working on include:

- the District's refusal to issue hotspots to teachers who do not have internet at home
- school reopening plans
- improper practice case against the District for refusal to set tentative dates for negotiations
- grievances on:
 - ✓ duplicate lesson plans
 - ✓ multiple student attendance reports
 - ✓ SPED documentation requirements

Anyone experiencing these or other issues is asked to document the problem and email the information to lsauer@btfny.org

