



***Food Brings Hope, in Food cooperation with Halifax Urban Ministries, to provide a 40-pound bag of groceries weekly to 50 needy families for remainder of school year.***

Food Brings Hope, in cooperation with Halifax Urban Ministries, will be providing a 40-pound bag of groceries to 50 of the neediest Westside Elementary School children and their families every week for the remainder of the school year. Ninety-five percent of Westside Elementary students are on the free or reduced lunch program.

We have found recently that many of our students are not receiving adequate nutrition over the weekend and during school holidays. Lack of adequate nutrition affects their behavior, growth and academics. Children who go without meals due to personal/family hardship are the most vulnerable and underserved of our community's citizens.

In a time when many of the area's moderate to low income families are having great difficulty securing an affordable place in which to live, receiving food for nine nourishing meals weekly can make a difference in enabling them to have money to pay their rent.

Parents, who have agreed to participate in the Food Brings Hope Family Food program, will pick up their bag of groceries weekly beginning Wednesday, February 29, 4-6 pm at the school.

Judi Winch, principal of Westside Elementary School said, "'Westside's Night Alive' continuously looks for ways to improve the lives of our children and families. Partnering with Food Brings Hope, in the past and with this newest initiative, brings to our children the sense of an extended family reaching out to help them in a time of need no matter how large or small. It gives them security knowing that others are there to aid and provide for them."

Food Brings Hope, founded by local businesswoman Forough Hosseini, is dedicated to helping break the cycle of poverty for homeless and other economically disadvantaged children enrolled in Volusia County Public Schools. The program began five years ago to provide nourishing meals, enhanced academics, rewards for improvement, and opportunities to participate in sporting and cultural programs for identified students in Volusia County Public schools.

For additional information, please visit our website at [www.FoodBringsHope.org](http://www.FoodBringsHope.org) or contact Executive Director Beth Butera at [Beth@FoodBringsHope.org](mailto:Beth@FoodBringsHope.org).