

## Food for Volunteers

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*Fairmount Park Elementary School  
Canton, Ohio*

“In our community we take care of our own people,” said one parent about the Food for Volunteers project. School volunteers can select a large grocery bag of non-perishable food for every 20 hours of volunteering, if they so desire. The food helps the Fairmount Park Elementary School community, especially the large number of children who receive free or reduce-priced lunches. Fairmount’s Parent Group started this practice through their Family Resource Center to appreciate family members who volunteer at the school and to help meet a basic need of many families.

Organizing this project required good cooperation between members of the staff and the Parent Group. Fairmount’s family involvement coordinator supervised the volunteer program and kept track of the hours each volunteer worked. She also solicited food donations from community organizations and churches. The principal and a teacher helped the student council organize a food drive for non-perishable food. The Parent Groups sets aside \$400 of their funds to support the project. As a result of the donations and the funding from the Parent Group, the school has not incurred any expenses to maintain the food cupboard.

The Food for Volunteers program supports students, families, and the school. Staff at Fairmount Park Elementary School believe that proper nutrition benefits student achievement and behavior. Parents learn more about the school and their children’s education through volunteering. Teachers benefit from the volunteers’ help. Fairmount Park Elementary School looks forward to expanding Food for Volun-

teers in the upcoming school year by reaching out to more families.

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