

# SEND HUNGER PACKING WW-P

## SHUP WW-P

### The Programs

Four years ago, SHUP WW-P began a weekend food program called Send Hunger Packing WW-P through Mercer Street Friends Mercer County's Food Bank, where weekend food is placed in the backpacks of children in grades K-6 to supplement the weekday school lunch program. Families in this program need to "qualify for the National School Lunch Program.

In the Fall of 2019, to aid our larger community, SHUP WW-P opened a Little Free Pantry open to all twenty four hours a day. The motto is, "**TAKE WHAT YOU NEED, LEAVE WHAT YOU CAN.**" The pantry has been in continuous use since. It is located in the parking lot of the West Windsor Arts Council Alexander Road. It is open to all.

### Reacting to the Pandemic

When Covid-19 shut the schools down and no weekend programs were available, SHUP WW-P and the Little Free Pantry through generous community support provided \$25 **grocery cards** to over **200 families** 4 times between March 2020 and June 2021.

### FOOD INSECURITY

Food insecurity refers to the USDA's measure of lack of access at all times to enough food for an active healthy life for all household members and limited of uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods.

In 2018, 8.7% or 774,860 households in NJ were food insecure where those under 18, 219,000 was 11.3%.

See: [www.-doh.state.nj.us/doh-shad/indicator/complete\\_profile/foodInsecurity](http://www.doh.state.nj.us/doh-shad/indicator/complete_profile/foodInsecurity)

In 2020 these numbers went up due to the pandemic.

Providing supplemental weekend food to WW-P families allows children to thrive in the classroom.

*Donations are always welcome. [www.mercerstreetfriends.org](http://www.mercerstreetfriends.org) comment donation is for SHUP WW-P/LFP in the drop down. Let those in need know about the Little Free Pantry. Any questions or comments contact Melissa Hager [Mhager27@aol.com](mailto:Mhager27@aol.com)*

