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## Let's Stuff that Bus!

The 37th annual Stuff-A-Bus Food Drive is here! Every year we partner with CityLink and Kroger to collect enough non-perishable food items to fill a CityLink bus. This month we kicked off the 2024 Stuff-A-Bus campaign at the Peoria Kroger on Lindbergh. The morning included representative speakers from CityLink, Kroger, and Peoria Friendship House, a performance by the Coach Bre Cottage cheer team, and the presenting of a donation from Kroger to kick off the food drive!

This year's campaign will run through December 3, and our goal is to collect 12 tons of food in that time. Food will be collected at participating Kroger's in the area, as well as at various partnering schools, churches, and businesses who will host food drives within their own organizations. All food collected will be used to fill our food pantry, which provides an average of 150,000 meals to families in the community every year. We would like to extend a huge thank you to CityLink and Kroger for hosting and sponsoring this campaign. If you are interested in partnering your organization or volunteering with on-site collection, please contact us!



## MONTHLY SNAPSHOT

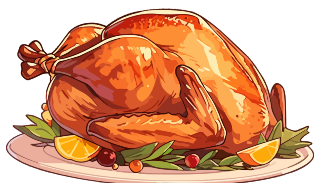
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### In October...

- Over **150** students attended our 2-week Fall Break Camp
- **15** students were moved from the waiting list into our S.T.E.A.M.S After-school Program (our waitlist is now empty!)
- We received a **\$15,000** donation from the Community Foundation to support our La Familia Outreach Program



# UPCOMING EVENTS



## **OSF Care-A-Van Health Clinic: 11/6 & 11/21 – 9AM-12PM**

The OSF mobile clinic will be outside our building to provide free walk-in health screenings, immunizations, and healthcare planning.

## **Hoopin' For the House Watch Party @ Lariat: 11/21 – 4:30-7PM**

Join us at Lariat Steakhouse for a watch party of the Bradley v. Texas State basketball game. Proceeds from the night will benefit Peoria Friendship House. CEO Marcellus Sommerville will discuss our 800 Club donor program during half-time.

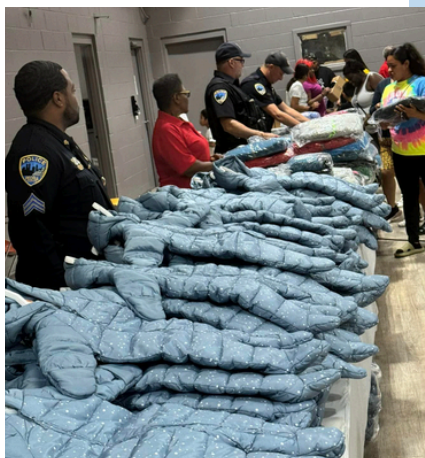
## **Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway: 11/24 – 1-2:30PM**

We will be hosting a Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway to provide turkeys to families in need. Limit 1 turkey per household. Must bring valid form of Illinois ID. First come, first served while supplies last.

## **Stuff-A-Bus Food Drive:**

Our Stuff-A-Bus food drive will run from October 18 through December 3. Stop by a participating Kroger to donate today!

## Keeping Peoria Warm: Children's Coat Drive



This month, in partnership with the Peoria Police Department, we hosted a children's winter coat for the community. We gave out free children's coats to community members in need, all of which were generously donated by the Peoria Police Department. Peoria police officers volunteered at the event handing out the coats to community members. We also handed out hats, gloves, socks, and slippers in addition to the coats.

The event also included fresh popcorn, hot dogs and hamburgers on the grill, cotton candy, face painting, a cookie decorating station, and other fun activities to bring families and the community together in an evening

of giving. We feel so blessed to be able to provide for the community in this way and ensure that every child stays warm this winter! A huge thank you to the Peoria Police Department for sponsoring and collaborating with us for this event...we love their dedication to being involved in the community!



# S.T.E.A.M.S Corner

## Fall Break Camp

In October we hosted a 2-week fall break camp during Peoria School District 150's fall intercession. This year we were even able to collaborate directly with District 150 to coordinate transportation and meals for the students!

Our students stayed festive throughout the camp by



Each class also enjoyed a field trip to Tanner's Orchard. This is a trip that our students love to take every year during fall break. The students had so much fun feeding the goats, sheep, and chickens, mini golfing, pumpkin picking, shopping at the market, and, of course, eating lots of apple cider donuts!



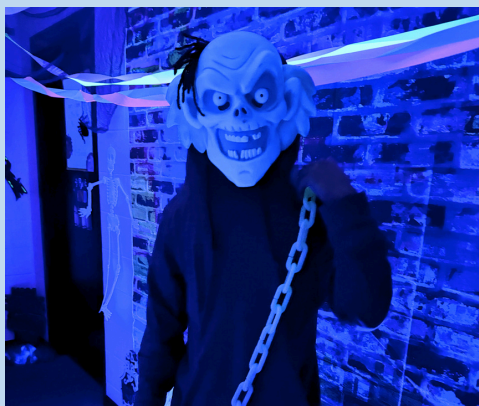
engaging in a plethora of fall-themed activities to celebrate the season, including pumpkin carving, "brewing" witches potion, hiking, leaf collecting, cooking pumpkin pancakes, and more!



## Trick or Treat!

The Peoria Friendship House loves to celebrate! This month we celebrated the spooky season with our annual Halloween party for STEAMS after-school students. Staff members decorated each hallway to be as spooky as could be, then students braved their way through the "Haunted House" hallways while collecting candy from staff. After plenty of screams and scares, everyone gathered in the gym to enjoy pizza and chicken tenders

generously provided by Weaver's Fresh Food and Drinks. Students and staff alike had a great time dressing up and getting into the Halloween spirit!



# BUILD Peoria: Groundbreaking News!



Early this month we hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for our brand new Outdoor Activity Center. This project comes after we were chosen via public poll to be the recipient of BUILD Peoria's 2024-25 project. The new outdoor activity center will include a new playground, renovated basketball and sand volleyball courts, and an

outdoor green space.

At the ceremony we were joined by the Peoria Chamber of Commerce, Peoria Friendship House board members, and representatives from C.T. Gabbert Remodeling and Construction, who will be building this project, to break ground on this exciting new addition to our space!



## Food Pantry: Updated Hours!

Please note that we have updated our food pantry hours. The new food pantry hours are as follows:

- Monday: 11AM - 3PM**
- Tuesday: 9AM - 3PM**
- Wednesday: 9AM- 3PM**
- Thursday: 9AM - 3PM**
- Friday: 1PM-3PM**



*Thank you for to our sponsors for supporting the Peoria Friendship House of Christian Service!*

*Andrew and Jennifer Paulson, Anthem Financial, Baldovin Co., BAsE2 Group, Benjamin Edwards & Co., Bremer Jewelry, Caterpillar, City of Peoria, Community Foundation of Central Illinois, Darin LaHood for Congress, David, Vaughan Investments, Doug Shannon - Financial Advisor, Glen Oak Christian Church, Greg and Jodi Piene, Illinois Department of Human Services, J.C. Dillon, Inc., Jones Bros Jewelers, Kids First Community, MH CPA PLLC, Morton Community Bank, Peoria Metro New Car Dealers Association, Pour Bros Craft Taproom, Prairie Home Alliance, Rammos Plastic Surgery and MedSpa, RLI, Shared Blessings, Slowhand Craft BBQ, St. Paul Church, Tom and Dianne Bates, Tom Henrichs - CFP Financial Advisor, United Way, WestPoint Financial Group, Yezek & Sons, LLC*