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The Heart Behind the Mission: Volunteers Power Serving Our Kids Foundation's Fight Against Child Hunger

Community Volunteers Deliver Hope and Weekend Meals to More Than 4,500 Food-Insecure Children Each Week

LAS VEGAS, NV (May 6, 2026) — They don't receive a paycheck. Most of them hold demanding full-time jobs. Yet week after week, a remarkable group of Las Vegas residents show up to pack meal bags, drive routes, and pour their hearts into ensuring that food-insecure children in Clark County don't go hungry on the weekends. They are the volunteers of Serving Our Kids Foundation — and without them, the organization simply could not exist.

Serving Our Kids provides weekend meal bags every week during the school year to more than 4,500 food-insecure elementary and middle school children across 98 schools in the Las Vegas Valley. More than 100,000 Clark County kids don't get enough to eat, and while school lunch programs provide a critical bridge during the week, thousands of children leave school on Friday not knowing when or if they will eat again before Monday.

Almost all of the organization's workers and professional staff, including its CEO, are volunteers. It is not a model born of necessity alone, it is a reflection of the community's deep commitment to its children.

"Our volunteers are the engine of everything we do," said Laurie Tanakaya, CEO of Serving Our Kids Foundation. "They are business professionals, realtors, parents, and neighbors who give their time because they believe no child in our community should go to bed hungry. Their generosity makes it possible for 70 cents of every donated dollar to go directly to the weekend meal bag program for the children we serve."

Serving Our Kids relies on volunteers for a wide range of roles from packing meal bags three nights a week at the warehouse, to driving delivery routes to schools across the valley, to leading outreach and fundraising efforts. Each role is essential.

Volunteers in Their Own Words

For volunteers like Cari Clark, a REALTOR® with Realty ONE Group in Las Vegas, the decision to get involved was grounded in both community and gratitude.

“Volunteering is important to me because it allows me to give back in a meaningful way and stay connected to my community,” said Clark. “I believe small acts of kindness can make a big difference, especially for families who may be going through challenging times. It’s also a great reminder of how fortunate we are.”

Clark said the organization’s mission is what drew her in. “I chose Serving Our Kids because of their direct impact on local children who may not have reliable access to food outside of school. Their mission really resonated with me, especially knowing how many kids in our own community face food insecurity. I love that the organization provides something so essential, and I wanted to be part of a cause that supports children in such a tangible and immediate way.”

Patrick Stevenson, a REALTOR® with Realty ONE Group in Summerlin, echoes that sentiment. For him, the appeal was straightforward and deeply personal.

“Volunteering keeps me connected with our community and gives me a sense of purpose and gratitude,” said Stevenson. “After sitting down with Laurie, I knew volunteering to deliver food to ensure kids don’t go hungry was an easy decision.”

Perhaps no story better captures the spirit of the organization than that of Tim Kuptz and his son Brandon. Tim, Broker/Owner of team KUPTZ RE/MAX Advantage and the #1 RE/MAX team in Southern Nevada, has been a Serving Our Kids volunteer driver and supervisor for five years. Today, he and Brandon alternate driving and supervising routes together each week, a father-son commitment that has become a cornerstone of the foundation’s operations. Tim also steps in as an organizational spokesperson when Executive Director Michalle Hoehn is unavailable for speaking engagements.

“I participated in a few meal bagging’s before becoming a driver about five years ago,” said Tim Kuptz. “Now, I alternate driving and supervising each week. And for the last few years, my son Brandon has been doing the same. I love the mission, the quality of the organizers and volunteers, and most important, the impact on food-insecure children Serving Our Kids provides. Good people. Great mission. Undeniable impact on the food-insecure children of our community. I love being a part of Serving Our Kids.”

A Volunteer-Powered Model With Real Results

The results of Serving Our Kids’ volunteer-powered model are clear. In a December 2025 survey of 98 school program coordinators across Clark County, respondents reported their observations regarding the weekend meal bags: improve students’ overall health and wellness (51.5%), school attendance (41.7%), academic performance (43.6%) and an estimated 45.6% of students share the food they receive with family members.

The Foundation is now seeking volunteers across several key roles:

Volunteer Meal Baggers pack bags three nights a week during the school year. Volunteer Drivers deliver meal bags to two to three schools every other week, with each delivery run taking approximately two hours. Volunteer Leaders help supervise meal bagging to ensure consistency and compliance. Event Volunteers support the

foundation's three major annual fundraising events, and Volunteer Ambassadors share the organization's story with local businesses and community groups to encourage participation and donations.

Individuals and groups are welcome. To join the team and help feed their dreams, visit ServingOurKids.org.

"Every bag packed, every meal delivered, every dollar raised by our volunteers represents a child who will face Monday morning with something to eat and maybe a little more hope," said Gregory Hogan, BOD Chairman. "We invite anyone who wants to make a real difference in a child's life to come be part of what we're building."

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ABOUT SERVING OUR KIDS

Since 2013, the Serving Our Kids Foundation has been dedicated to fighting child hunger. Today, it provides weekend meal bags to more than 4,500 food-insecure elementary and middle school kids, in 98 Las Vegas Valley schools, every week during the school year.

Serving Our Kids actively seeks monetary and in-kind donations from individuals and organizations to help improve its services, increase the number of food items in each meal bag, and reach more of the 100,000+ food-insecure kids in Clark County, Nevada. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible. EIN: 30-0747568. Learn more and donate at ServingOurKids.org.