



Orange County Government
Office of County Executive Steven M. Neuhaus
NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
May 18, 2017

Contact: Justin Rodriguez
845.291.3255

**County Executive Neuhaus helps fill backpacks with food for students
at Port Jervis Middle School as part of Orange Cares program**

*Approximately 40 backpacks were packed with produce, pasta, juice, canned food,
milk, cereal and bread*

Goshen, N.Y. – Orange County Executive Steven M. Neuhaus filled backpacks with food on Thursday for students at Port Jervis Middle School as part of the County’s Orange Cares program.

Neuhaus was accompanied at the event by Assemblyman Karl Brabenec, Orange County Legislator Tom Faggione, Port Jervis City Schools Superintendent Thomas M. Bongiovi, Orange County Deputy Commissioner of Social Services Irene Kurlander and Josie Ramnani, Children’s Programs Coordinator, Food Bank of the Hudson Valley.

“I’m very glad to see that Orange County’s effort to combat childhood hunger has expanded to Port Jervis,” Neuhaus said. “All of us need to work together to address this important issue. The County has received wonderful feedback about the Oranges Cares program and we are excited that it is continuing to grow.”

Neuhaus and the other volunteers at Port Jervis Middle School filled backpacks with a variety of food into approximately 40 backpacks, including produce, pasta, juice, canned food, milk, cereal and bread. Orange Cares has now been implemented in the Chester, Highland Falls, Port Jervis, Middletown and Newburgh school districts, serving approximately 520 students each month.

Approximately 4,773 backpacks were distributed during the 2015-16 school year, containing the equivalent of 28,638 meals. During the 2016-17 school year, 12,685 backpacks have been dispensed, the equivalent of 76,110 meals.

“The Port Jervis Middle School along with the rest of the school district is thrilled to be a part of a wonderful initiative such as Orange Cares,” Bongiovi said. “We would like to thank County Executive Steve Neuhaus and the Hudson Valley Regional Food Bank for all that they do to help keep children in our schools and surrounding communities healthy.”

Neuhaus and Orange County Commissioner of Social Services Darcie Miller announced a partnership in September of 2015 with the Food Bank of the Hudson Valley to create the Orange Cares initiative. Orange Cares assists children in Orange County who are considered food insecure. Orange County invested \$375,000 into Orange Cares to jumpstart this important program.

“It has been an honor for the Food Bank of the Hudson Valley to work with Orange County on the Orange Cares program,” said Mark Quandt, Executive Director of the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York. “County Executive Neuhaus, Darcie Miller, and their teams worked closely with us to create a program that targets high need schools in the county, enabling us to make a difference in the lives of thousands of low-income children and their families. I am not aware of any other county funded program like Orange Cares in the country, so Orange County residents can be proud of the special care they are providing to their most vulnerable citizens.”

If you are a school or school district interested in the Orange Cares program, please e-mail the Food Bank of the Hudson Valley at info@regionalfoodbank.net.

###



Orange County Executive Steven M. Neuhaus fills backpacks with food for students at Port Jervis Middle School as part of the County's Orange Cares program. He is packing backpacks with Port Jervis Middle School students (from left to right) Cassie Rodriguez, Regina Cregan and Chloe Lane, and Assemblyman Karl Brabenec.