Twitter Thread by T. Greg Doucette



T. Greg Doucette
@greg_doucette

****

6TH (■■) ANNUAL
BULL CITY FOODRAISER
FRIDAY, 12/04/2020
ALL-DAY THREAD

****



We have a few new people here since our December 2019 event, so let's start things off with some background ■

Waaaayyy back in 2015 – seriously, how many decades ago was that?? – I teamed up with local schoolteacher Turquoise Parker (@PrkrsProfessors) to help her out with a problem

Turq taught at Eastway Elementary, which was just a couple blocks from my law office

Eastway is also one of the poorest schools in Durham (including, for example, having a few homeless shelters whose kids it serves)

And all the schools shut down for several weeks each December

Y'all know how much kids like to eat

So Turq was worried their parents wouldn't have the means to keep them feed over the winter break, and we decided to run

a food drive to help her class

Yes: just -1- class originally! ■

Here's a picture of Turquoise in the bottom left, from our 2018 Foodraiser thread

Yes, she is always like this ■ https://t.co/mYFtr03Yj7

> That's Turquoise in the bottom left corner, at a "Teachers for T. Greg" meeting where I was asking local educators about how things worked around here pic.twitter.com/NiTnSSy9dg
>
> — T. Greg Doucette (@greg_doucette) December 14, 2018

The 2015 Foodraiser was very slapdash back then

For one, it wasn't called a Foodraiser

For two, it was put together in only about 48 hours ■

But we packed out my car with food! https://t.co/aCShFKcL6T

> Y'all! In less than 3 days, we got enough food for Eastway Elementary to literally stuff my entire car \U0001f604 #EaglePride pic.twitter.com/fJylQ6Vq7f
>
> — T. Greg Doucette (@greg_doucette) December 17, 2015

And since that was such a success, we had to do it again in 2016!

By that point I'd gotten "famous," with a whopping 5,000 Twitter followers!

And the added reach led to a bunch more donations and enough food to stuff my RAV4 https://t.co/XDrtx2xZRp

> This is what all that looked like after it was transported to Eastway and separated for packing \U0001f62e
>
> That's roughly 12'x8' of space y'all pic.twitter.com/iVQJbimTZD
>
> — T. Greg Doucette (@greg_doucette) December 23, 2016

Now keep in mind both 2015 and 2016 were just for a single classroom of about 25ish churrens

In 2017 things continued to expand, and got to the point I needed to call in Delsie to bring her SUV because it couldn't all fit in mine! ■

Here's the video of me pre-car-stuffing: https://t.co/Dmc4E5x1pU

> 3rd Annual Eastway Foodraiser Thread! pic.twitter.com/BTx3fOAkJe
>
> — T. Greg Doucette (@greg_doucette) December 20, 2017

We had so much food in 2017 that we fed the entire 3rd grade at Eastway, 3 classes' worth of kids

Those of you who know the Fibonacci Sequence can probably guess where this is going...

We did it again in 2018, and things started *really* taking off

We ended up with palettes upon palettes of food, that didn't even get unshrinkwrapped because there was no point I guess? ■ https://t.co/RyYJ8ZVpYs

> Stuff just for left on palettes this year because there was so much \U0001f602\U0001f602\U0001f602
>
> We also decided to use the #TGDLawFoodraiser hashtag because we didn't have one yet pic.twitter.com/OIK9TjVGjM
>
> — T. Greg Doucette (@greg_doucette) December 19, 2018

And we needed scads of volunteers to transport it all, with roughly a dozen SUV drivers helping out

Y'all. 2018 sucked so bad from a manual labor standpoint, my back hurt for days afterward ■■■ https://t.co/Ggu9U2MBWL

> We had a mini-army of drivers that I will be @'ing later!
>
> And thank you to the @SamsClub staff for helping with loading -- got everything done in about 20 minutes!
>
> (After I had words with my bank lol)#TGDLawFoodraiser pic.twitter.com/Pf4FPWBWob
>
> — T. Greg Doucette (@greg_doucette) December 19, 2018

2018 was also reaching a point where things were too big for "normal" processes

For example, I tried to use my debit card to pay for it but the amount was so large we had to transition to cashier's checks from the bank

Which I didn't know until everyone was there waiting ■■■■

But we had so. much. food. that we fed an *entire* elementary school for the first time!

Every kid

Every grade

No exceptions https://t.co/GRHLeDTCAX

> Here's a pair of pano shots from @PrkrsProfessors's bagging operation tonight!#TGDLawFoodraiser #FeedEmAll pic.twitter.com/1APSK9MdDY
>
> — T. Greg Doucette (@greg_doucette) December 20, 2018

Then came December 2019, our 5th annual event...



Have y'all ever tried to spend so much money at once that a business flat out refuses to let you shop there?

Just straight-up cancels your entire order and tells you to go f*ck yourself?

That's what happened to us in 2019

Donations increased 90%+ year over year

We placed an order for $13,000+ of food for the kids

And the company we'd worked with for 4 years prior *refused to fill it* and didn't notify us until the day we were scheduled to pick everything up! ■

So Turq called @Costco, spoke with their manager Ryan, and somehow some way they got a comparable order filled in just a few hours! https://t.co/uH4S6mtsGw

> Didn't get a chance to post photos as I went b/c things were moving *fast*

> Here's the check confirming all the receipts were spent (I covered the merchant account fees), then a cash register shot of the final total (@GomeralDAL kindly chipped in the extra $50ish!) pic.twitter.com/yPRDV1L9Bk
>
> — T. Greg Doucette (@greg_doucette) December 18, 2019

Because Sam's Club is trash

(Oops, did I say their name out loud??)

I've boycotted them since. Let my membership lapse and never went back after they f*cked us on that 2019 food drive https://t.co/Lviaos8vOz

> WHAT?!?!
>
> — Naima Cochrane (@naima) December 4, 2020

Now, idk about y'all – but I'd never seen $13,000+ in food before

A dozen volunteers driving SUVs wasn't gonna cut it

We needed a full-blown box truck, that @Lowes was kind enough to donate for the event! https://t.co/SkJYEpAGtR

> Got this beauty following behind me! *THANK YOU* @Lowes! \U0001f606\U0001f606\U0001f606 pic.twitter.com/Ac0YM6BXW4
>
> — T. Greg Doucette (@greg_doucette) December 18, 2019

An entire commercial grade box truck deep of food pallets stacked floor-to-ceiling... https://t.co/fJozUS9MH7

> This isn't a terribly good shot, but that entire truck had palettes all the way back \U0001f606 pic.twitter.com/v3pXUEYnnT
>
> — T. Greg Doucette (@greg_doucette) December 18, 2019

They provided a driver, *and* a bunch of volunteers!

I shop there for all my home improvement needs now ■ https://t.co/xMOrbYioS0

> Did they provide a driver, or did you have to find somebody with a CDL? (At my sons' school, until the beginning of this year the pastor was the only one licensed to drive a school bus!)
>
> — Anne D. (@cheyinka) December 4, 2020

In 2019 we got so much food that I had to spread the results pics across 3 different tweets ■

Start here, and scroll down: https://t.co/1hEMP28ygd

The end results: bags and bags... pic.twitter.com/eqzB46EOd0

— T. Greg Doucette (@greg_doucette) December 20, 2019

(I'm not exaggerating – the entire school's library and some of the hallway became a massive staging ground for groceries) https://t.co/VsDTPi9Dlc

...and bags and bags of groceries! pic.twitter.com/Te1WTbrzgR

— T. Greg Doucette (@greg_doucette) December 20, 2019

When all was said and done, we had enough groceries for every. single. child. at

three.

whole.

schools.

■■■

So. That is what we're hoping to be our baseline for 2020!

Last year, we fed 3 schools off just over $13K

This year we'd like to raise $14K (and if it goes above that, even better)

And this is where you – and a very special team of people – come in!

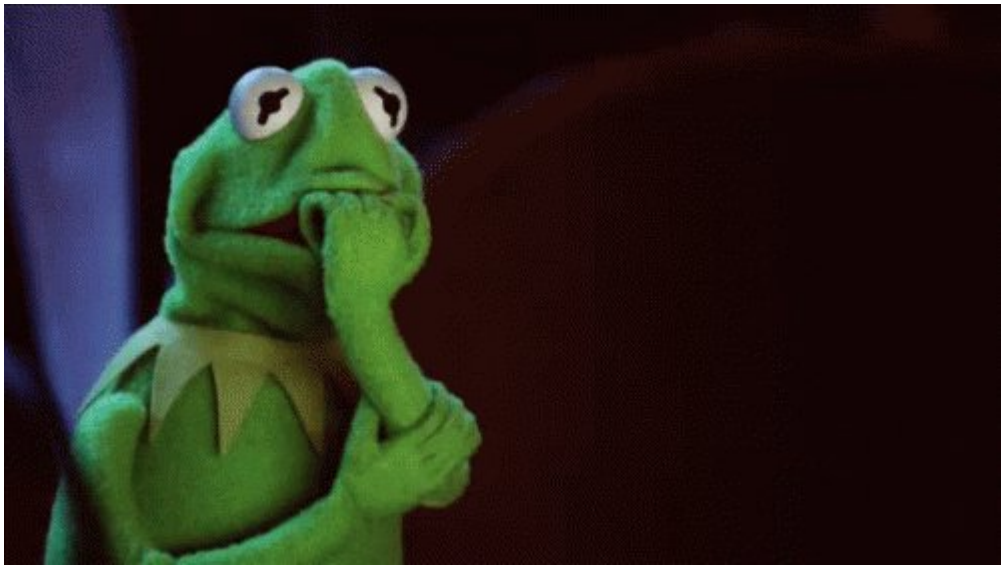
Those of you who've seen our other charity fundraisers throughout the year know that I like to add a little spice to the events, by chipping in some cash of my own on a per-donor basis

I don't do that here because I'll be providing manual labor instead ■ But others will!

We currently have *12* people, who have each agreed in advance to kick in $2 for every donor, up to a certain # of donors ranging from 250 to 1,000

That means your donation – even if it's just $1 – will trigger another +$24 in donations from this team of people

BUT that means we need at least 250+ of you to donate something for us to max our sponsors out!



To make it easy, we're doing a couple things:

1■■ We created a 501(c)(3) charity for the event, so now your donations are tax-deductible!

2■■ We've also got several different platforms where you can contribute, so use whatever's easiest for you!

(They're in the next tweet)

HOW TO DONATE TO
THE 6TH(!) ANNUAL
BULL CITY FOODRAISER

1■■ Donate online: https://t.co/zMvFOo4VEp

2■■ CashApp: $tgdlaw

3■■ Venmo: @greg_doucette

4■■ PayPal: https://t.co/WU8c4YgGxU

And of course please retweet, tell a friend, etc etc etc ■

We can also take checks and cash, but you either need to be local to Durham or willing to get it to me ASAP so everything can clear by 12/15 ■

And unlike the other fundraisers, you *do not* need to send me a screenshot for your donation to get matched this time!

I've got access to all the backend data, and will share updates throughout the day ■

Yes! We'll have details on that out next week, but basically the food delivering will be on 12/15, then sorting + bagging on 12/16 and maybe 12/17, with pickups and delivers on 12/17-18 https://t.co/GxhcxpnGG9

> Is there a way to do physical volunteer stuff? If I can get time, I will come.
>
> — Yudhi Kandel (\u092f\u0941\u0927\u093f\u0937\u094d\u0920\u093f\u0930 \u0915\u0901\u0921\u0947\u0932) (@ykandel) December 4, 2020

I tried so hard not to die of laughter when this happened ■■ https://t.co/Zy2hDqteas

> To be honest, this was one of the most fulfilling moments ever pic.twitter.com/jq6Q0MuYQH
>
> — ExKage \U0001f9a6 (@ExKage) December 4, 2020