

Blessings in a Backpack

Fact Sheet

Contact Information:

Media inquires:

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Statistics on Childhood Hunger:

- One out of every six children in the U.S. (12.4 million) is at risk of hunger.
- Over 60% of children in the U.S. Public School system are on the Free and Reduced Meal program.
- Childhood hunger can lead to a weaker immune system and increased hospitalization rates.
- Poor nutrition early in life can impair neural development, leading to lower IQs.
- Unmet nutritional needs make it very difficult for children to learn, pay attention in class and behave properly to retain what they learn.
- Data shows that hungry children are sick more often, and have lower academic achievement.

About us:

- The idea of feeding children on the weekend was conceptualized in December 2004 by Stan Curtis and Missy Hammerstrom in Louisville, Kentucky.
- Blessings in a Backpack launched in July 2005, with two schools in its pilot program.
- Now serving 20,000+ elementary school children spread throughout 16 states.
- Better test scores, improved reading skills, positive behavior, improved health and increased attendance have all been attributed to the success of this program.

How it works:

- \$80 feeds a child in the program for an entire school year.
- Following a donation, a school is chosen and a local grocer partners with the program to provide food for meals in the backpacks.
- Every Friday, students receive their backpacks with staples that require little to no preparation. They return with their backpacks on Monday ready to learn.

Funding:

- The program is a hybrid of private sector funding and public partnership carried out in public schools.
- We are a 501(3) c organization. This allows us to purchase food at a discounted rate and makes all donations tax deductible.

Blessings in Backpack program goals:

- Help meet the nutritional needs of our country's children on the weekend, ultimately impacting their educational success.
- Generate public awareness on the issue of child hunger in the United States.
- Work to expand the program across the nation.

Blessings in a Backpack major Partners and Supporters:

- Entertainers: Hilary Duff, Sammy Hagar, Scarlett Johansson, GooGoo Dolls,
- Professional Athletes: Dwight Howard, Rich Beem, Mark Wilson, Leah Wiggers, Cindy LaCross, PGA Tour Wives Association,
- Corporate Supporters: USA Harvest, Meijer, Wal-Mart, Nina Shoes, Algood Food Company, Cartier, LiveNation, Dubli, Kosair Children's Charities, Jazzercise.

Communities currently served:

Arizona: 6 schools

Hawaii: 3 schools

Maine: 1 school

Oklahoma: 1 school

California: 1 school

Indiana: 7 schools

Missouri: 10 schools

Texas: 14 schools

Colorado: 1 school

Illinois: 3 schools

New York: 1 school

Virginia: 1 school

Florida: 9 schools

Kentucky: 16 schools

Ohio: 2 schools

Canada & Colombia