



Fact Sheet

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About us:

- The idea of feeding children on the weekend was conceptualized in December 2004 by Stan Curtis.
- Blessings in a Backpack launched in July 2005, with two schools in its pilot program.
- Now serving 27,600+ elementary school children spread throughout 21 states in 156 schools.
- Better test scores, improved reading skills, positive behavior, improved health and increased attendance have all been attributed to the success of this program.

Statistics on Childhood Hunger:

- One out of every six children in the U.S. (12.4 million) is at risk of hunger.
- Over 62% of children in the U.S. Public School system are on the Free and Reduced Meal program.
- Childhood hunger has led 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 knowledge.
- Data shows that hungry children are sick more often, and have lower academic achievement.

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(c)(3) 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, Miley Cyrus, REO Speedwagon, Pat Benetar, Bruce McGill

Professional Athletes: Dwight Howard, Rich Beem, Mark Wilson, Justin Rose, Leah Wigger, Cindy LaCross, Mallory Blackwelder, Shannon Miller, Junior Bridgeman (former NBA star), Vaughn Taylor, Charley Hoffman, Paola Moreno.

Corporate Partners: USA Harvest, Meijer, Algood Food Company, Cartier, LiveNation, Dublin, Kosair Children's Charities, Jazzercise, Defero, PGA Tour Wives Association, Play Golf Designs, Valhalla Golf Club, Lake Nona Club, Tavistock Group, Old National, Aegon, Sysco, Pernod Ricard, Black Diamond Golf Club.

States currently served: Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, New Mexico, New York, Nevada, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, Virginia

Countries currently served: USA, Canada and Colombia