



**BLESSINGS IN A
BACKPACK**



Annual Report
July 1, 2017–June 30, 2018



A Message from our Board Chair and CEO

On behalf of the Blessings in a Backpack Board and Staff, we thank you for your generous support of our mission—to provide food on the weekends for elementary school children across America who might otherwise, go hungry. As we embark on our 10th Birthday, we find ourselves looking back to the beginning when a woman named Missy Hammerstrom had a simple idea that started with a little girl and an apple.

Flashback to over a decade ago, Missy was visiting an elementary school in Louisville for a community project with the United Way. She was eating lunch when a little girl asked if she could have Missy's apple. Missy asked the girl if she didn't eat enough in the lunchroom. The girl said, "No, I'm taking it home so I can eat it tonight." Naturally, Missy gave the girl her apple.

That night, Missy told her husband Gary that she had to do something. She couldn't let kids go home hungry. So she went to Target to buy backpacks. In her garage, Missy filled those backpacks with food and donated the bags to the school. With that simple act Blessings in a Backpack was born.

Unfortunately, Missy died in 2010. She didn't get to see Blessings in a Backpack grow into what it is today—feeding 87,300 children on the weekends this school year. But her husband said he knows she would be proud. "I know she's smiling down on us today."

The extraordinary number of children with access to food on the weekends would not be possible without our dedicated volunteers, school officials, corporate and athletic partners, and donors that have all made Missy's mission their own.

We thank you for making this progress possible. Together, we will feed the kids this weekend.



Rich Stephens
Chair, National Board of Directors
Blessings in a Backpack



Brooke M. Wiseman
Chief Executive Officer
Blessings in a Backpack

Mission

Blessings in a Backpack mobilizes communities, individuals, and resources to provide food on the weekends for elementary school children across America who might otherwise go hungry.

Vision

Every school-aged child in America has the nourishment needed to learn and grow. As a leader in the movement to end childhood hunger, Blessings in a Backpack strives to ensure children don't go hungry on the weekends by empowering individuals and communities to take action.

History

Blessings in a Backpack was piloted in 2005 in Louisville, Ky., when Missy Hammerstrom (see "Message" on page 1) brought the issue of childhood weekend hunger to a local philanthropist. The first program fed 50 children, and Blessings in a Backpack continued to grow organically from there. In 2008, Blessings in a Backpack became an official 501(c)3 organization.



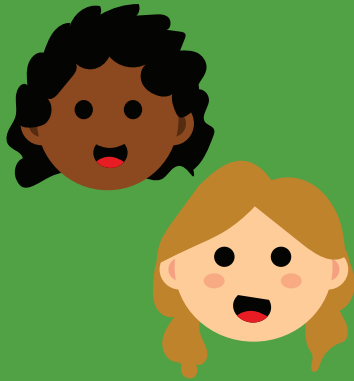
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Our Impact



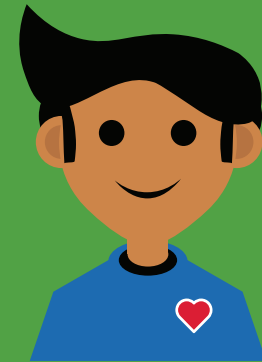
87,300
Children fed



3 million
hunger-free
weekends provided



1,092 schools
and 46 states*
served



16,400 +
dedicated volunteers
lived our mission

**includes Washington D.C.*

Evaluation Results

Blessings in a Backpack measures program impact on a deeper level than bags and pounds of food distributed. Student surveys found that, in addition to no longer feeling weekend hunger pangs, children fed by Blessings in a Backpack also experience the following impact on their lives:

- **78%** feel cared for by their community
- **60%** report fewer behavioral issues
- **60%** have better school attendance
- **71%** feel they are helping their family
- **59%** find it is easier to learn at school

Fiscal Year 2018 Highlights

July 2017

We were invited to the National Governors Association Summer Conference as U.S. governors discussed the issue of childhood hunger in America. We packed 1,000 bags of weekend food with the First Spouses for kids in Rhode Island.



February 2018

On Valentine's Day, Jennifer Garner and her kids and their friends packed 391 bags of food to feed the hearts and bellies of hungry kids in Los Angeles. They wrote inspirational note cards to include in the bags, too.

September 2017

Mayors and government officials across the U.S. filled backpacks with food for the kids in their communities as a part of the fourth annual Blessings in a Backpack Day on September 28, 2017.

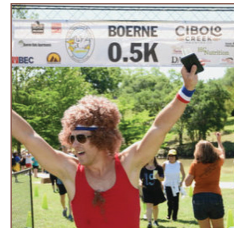


March 2018

In West Virginia and Kentucky, teachers made sure that none of their students went hungry just because they were on strike. Teachers packed bags of food and delivered them to kids homes. "This is all about our kids," said Teacher Kevin Green.

September 2017

We hosted our first national week of awareness, Blessings in a Backpack Week, to coincide with National Blessings in a Backpack Day. Thanks to the generous support of Cigna, the week brought awareness to Blessings in a Backpack's work to feed the kids this weekend.



May 2018

The Boerne 0.5k raised \$30,000 for the Blessings in a Backpack program in Boerne, Texas, surpassing the event's fundraising goal by 500 percent. The race billed as 'the running event for the rest of us,' gained international attention and was featured on Good Morning America, Newsweek, and syndicated radio.

November 2017

More than \$20,000 was raised during our #WhyIAm campaign on Giving Tuesday. The money raised helped us provide more than 6,920 hunger-free weekends for the kids facing food insecurity across America.



June 2018

We teed off our fifth annual Blessings in a Backpack Classic at Shoreacres Golf Course. Thank you to all of the sponsors, golfers, tennis players, volunteers, and silent auction bidders (and winners) who participated to help us feed kids on the weekends.

January 2018

Heisman Trophy winner Lamar Jackson signed autographs for his fans to raise \$25,000 for Blessings in a Backpack. This donation helped us start a new program feeding 250 kids at Wheatley Elementary School in Louisville, Ky.



June 2018

Blessings in a Backpack is proud to have completed its first National Volunteer Conference. More than 100 volunteers, presenters, sponsors, and staff members traveled from all over the nation to participate in this inaugural event in Chicago.

FY18 Financial Summary



\$10.5 Million
in total revenue



\$9.5 Million
in total expenses



81% in total
program expense

Revenue and Support

Athletic Partnerships	\$610,223
Corporations	\$3,140,938
Foundations	\$1,891,826
Government	\$287,680
Individuals	\$1,660,987
School/Faith Based	\$946,467
Other	\$820,739
Fundraising Events	\$923,843
In-Kind Contributions	\$242,795
Interest & Other Income	\$65,268
Total Revenue and Support	\$10,590,766

Expenses

Program Services	\$7,736,426
General and Admin	\$1,188,064
Fundraising	\$617,159
Total Expenses	\$9,541,649
Increase in Net Assets	\$1,049,117
Ending Net Assets	\$9,367,248

*Revenues raised above FY18 expenses are restricted for future year's food expenses at specific program locations.

A full copy of our GAAP audited financial statement is available by request.

Donations

Blessings in a Backpack extends a special thank you to the following donors* and all of our donors who supported us in Fiscal Year 2018.

**Every effort has been made to present a complete, alphabetical list of Blessings in a Backpack donors that gave support of \$5,000 or greater from July 2017 to June 2018. Should you notice an error or omission, please contact Erin Kerr at (312) 366-2748 or ErinKerr@BlessingsinaBackpack.org.*

\$100,000 and Above

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BY DESIGN

Anthem[®]



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Fiddlesticks Charity Foundation



community foundation
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\$75,000-\$99,999

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Variety Feeds Kids

Donations

Blessings in a Backpack extends a special thank you to the following donors and all of our donors who supported us in Fiscal Year 2018.*

\$25,000-\$49,999

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United Way Lee County
Washington Christian Outreach
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Zurich North America

\$15,000-\$24,999

A Recipe to End Hunger and Need Inc.
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ADP
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Bandujo Advertising & Design
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The Thunderbirds
Tuscarawas County Health Dept.
United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County
Ramona and Dan Ustian
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Blessings in a Backpack extends a special thank you to the following donors and all of our donors who supported us in Fiscal Year 2018.*

\$10,000-\$14,999

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Hannah Foundation
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LaGrange County Chamber
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Donations

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Leidos Biomedical Research Inc.
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Mark Wiktor
Mark and Amy Wilson
Will Davis Elementary PTA
William J. Clancy Foundation
Witan Community Projects Fund
Witch's Hat Brewing Co., LLC
Zano Salons
Ziegler



Thank you!



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