**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  **Contact:**

September 27, 2018 <INSERT NAME>

<INSERT EMAIL>

<INSERT PHONE #>

**MAYOR <INSERT NAME> ADDRESSES HUNGER IN <INSERT CITY> BY PARTICIPATING IN “BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK DAY” WITH LOCAL VOLUNTEERS**

*More than <BLESSINGS WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH THIS NUMBER> mayors across the country today worked with local volunteers to pack bags full of food for hungry students to take home for the weekend*

**<INSERT CITY NAME>** — Mayor <INSERT NAME> today joined volunteers to stuff backpacks full of food for local schoolchildren as part of “Blessings in a Backpack Day” at <INSERT SCHOOL NAME>, aiding in the distribution of weekend food for <INSERT NUMBER OF CHILDREN>. Mayor <INSERT NAME> was one of <BLESSINGS WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH THIS NUMBER> mayors across the country that participated in this fifth annual event, as a result of a resolution passed at the U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting in June 2015.

Today, nearly 70 percent of children in the U.S. are on the federal free and reduced price National School Lunch Program, totaling nearly 31 million students. This federal program provides food for these students during the week, but most of them have a difficult time obtaining food during the weekends. This is where Blessings in a Backpack comes in.

“Through Blessings in a Backpack, our entire community — schools, organizations and community members — has had the opportunity to work together and improve the lives of our children by simply sending them home with food for the weekend,” said <INSERT PC NAME>, the Blessings in a Backpack project coordinator at <INSERT SCHOOL/DISTRICT>. “Hunger should not be a worry or challenge for today’s youth, and it is important that, as a community, we do everything we can to feed them. I have seen the direct and powerful impact that this program has on the students, as well as the families and school as a whole.”

Blessings in a Backpack is a national 501(c)(3) organization that, through an all volunteer network, mobilizes communities, individuals and resources to provide food on the weekends for elementary school children across America who might otherwise go hungry. Volunteers across the country are responsible for the packing and delivery of food to students every weekend throughout the school year.

<QUOTE FROM THE MAYOR’S OFFICE>

In <INSERT YOUR CITY>, <# OF STUDENTS> students benefit from the Blessings in a Backpack program. Each week, volunteers come together to pack and deliver bags full of food to students at school to take home with them over the weekend. Blessings in a Backpack currently provides more than 3 million hunger-free weekends to 93,000 children in 45 states and the District of Columbia.

“Too many students leave school on Friday, anticipating whether they will be fed that weekend. This is unacceptable,” said Brooke Wiseman, CEO of Blessings in a Backpack. “We are so grateful for the efforts of all the mayors and volunteers who participated in this year’s ‘Blessings in a Backpack Day’ – and their dedication to feed children in their communities. It is because of our committed volunteers, like <INSERT MAYOR NAME> and <INSERT PC NAME>, that we have taken a step in the right direction to feed future generations.

For more information about Blessings in a Backpack and how to get involved, please visit [www.blessingsinabackpack.org](http://www.blessingsinabackpack.org).

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**About Blessings in a Backpack**:

Hunger has both short- and long-term negative effects on children’s health and ability to succeed in school. 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. Blessings in a Backpack is providing 3.2 million hunger-free weekends for 87,300 children in 45 states and the District of Columbia. For more information visit [www.blessingsinabackpack.org](http://www.blessingsinabackpack.org/).

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