



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 strives to ensure children don't go hungry on the weekends by empowering individuals and communities to take action.

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.

Geographic Coverage

- Serving children in 45 U.S. States and Washington, D.C.
- Not operating in: Hawaii, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Utah

Backpack Basics

- Average five volunteers per program location
- Typical menu: Six to eight items with a focus on protein and nutrient rich foods. Most items are USDA approved for use in school feeding programs, meaning low sugars and high fibers.
- To provide one hunger-free weekend to a child, the average cost is \$2.90.
- As little as \$110 gives a child a school-year full of hunger-free weekends (38 weeks).

Need

- More than 13 million American children live in food insecure homes.
 - Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture
- When school dismisses on Fridays, more than 13 million children will leave their classroom, uncertain whether they will have enough food to eat that weekend.
 - Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Children who struggle with hunger are sick more, recover slowly, and are hospitalized more frequently.
 - Source: Children's Health Watch
- Undernourished children don't learn as fast or as well as nourished children.
 - Source: National Institutes of Health
- Young people who grew up hungry are less likely to graduate from high school.
 - Source: National Commission on Hunger. *Freedom from Hunger: An Achievable Goal for the United States of America*. 2015. 15.
- "Hungry teens are more likely than their regularly-fed peers to contemplate suicide and have other mental-health problems."
 - Source: Deruy, Emily. "5 Things You Didn't Know About Hunger in America." *The Atlantic*. 6 January 2016.
- "In the United States more than half of hungry households are white, and two-thirds of those with children have at least one working adult—typically in a full-time job."
 - Source: McMillian, Tracie. *The New Face of Hunger*. *National Geographic Magazine*. 16 July 2014.

General Talking Points

Most people can't wait for the weekend. Kids at risk of hunger can't wait for it to be over.

Did you know 13 million kids in America won't have enough food to eat this weekend? That's one in five kids who will eat meals at school during the week but is without access to affordable, nutritious food on Saturday and Sunday. The consequences are much more than a growling stomach. Hunger can cause many physical health problems. It can also shorten a child's attention span, lower their IQ, and keep them from making good grades.

To ensure the kids in your community have full bellies over the weekend, Blessings in a Backpack sends them home on Fridays with backpacks full of satisfying and nutritional food. Who will feed the kids this weekend?

- As a leader in the movement to end childhood hunger, Blessings strives to ensure children don't go hungry on the weekends by empowering individuals and communities to take action.
- Blessings in a Backpack provides weekend nutrition for elementary school children across America who may otherwise have little or no food to eat on weekends during the school year.
- Each Friday of the school year, thousands of volunteers across the country at more than 1,000 program locations are sending home a bag of food with children who face hunger that weekend.
- During the current school year, more than 90,000 children facing food insecurity will receive more than 3.2 million hunger-free weekends from Blessings and our dedicated volunteers.

Tax Information

Federal EIN - 26-1964620

Status - 107 (b) (1) (A) (vi)

FY18 Figures

Unaudited Revenue: \$10,583,321 Unaudited Expense: \$9,511,046

Programming:

- More than 87,300 children served at 1,000+ locations during the 2017-2018 school year
- More than 3 million hunger-free weekends provided
- Nearly 16,000 volunteers gave their time to Blessings throughout the year

FY19 Goals

Budgeted Revenue: \$ 11,253,878 Budgeted Expense: \$11,289,617

Programming:

- More than 90,000 children will be served at 1,000+ locations by the end of the 2018-2019 school year.
- More than 3.2 million hunger-free weekends will be provided
- Nearly 16,000 volunteers will give their time to Blessings and the children we serve this year.

Strategy 2021 – Building a Sustainable and Scalable Business Model

What we strive to do:

- Link knowledge to action to educate the public on this epidemic that effects over 13 million children in the United States
- Draw on the expertise, ingenuity, passion and pioneering spirit of volunteers across the country

- Ensure the sustainability of current programs
- Reach saturation in targeted geographies
- Increase the number of children served across the US
- Maintain low-cost options for nutritious foods

By 2021, Blessings in a Backpack will have:

- Established growth/scalability strategy
- Diversified and increased funding streams
- Established efficient procedures and processing, including food purchasing and distribution
- Strengthened reputation and increased brand awareness
- Invested in the tools needed to support human capital and technology
- Increased the number of children served by 10%

Offices

Headquarters
 4121 Shelbyville Road
 Louisville, KY 40207
 (800) 872-4366

Chicago
 135 S. LaSalle Ave. Ste. 1921
 Chicago, IL 60603
 (312) 366-2760

Employees

Number of employees: 29	Full Time: 25	Part Time: 4
Louisville Office: 10	Chicago Office: 12	Remote: 7 (Calif. 2, Fla. 2, Md. 1, N.Y. 1, Va. 1)