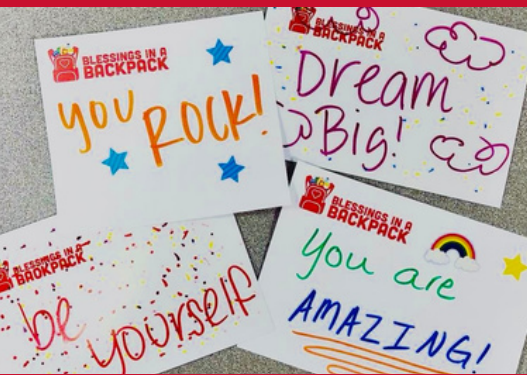




BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Mission: Blessings in a Backpack mobilizes communities, individuals, and resources to provide food on the weekends for school-age 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 strives to ensure children don't go hungry on the weekends by empowering individuals and communities to take action.

HOW BLESSINGS STARTED

In 2005, Missy Hammerstrom was visiting an elementary school in Louisville, KY., for a community project. She was eating lunch when a little girl asked for 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 this weekend." Missy was heartbroken by the thought that kids in her community were going hungry. That night she drove to the store and purchased every backpack that she could find. She filled those backpacks with food and donated them to the school. That weekend, Missy fed 30 kids and Blessings in a Backpack was born. Today, Blessings in a Backpack is a nationally known organization, feeding over 88,000 kids on the weekends throughout the weekend in 44 states.

**"THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR MY BACKPACK. I LOVE GETTING THE FOOD AND SHARING IT WITH MY LITTLE SISTER."—
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENT**