

HUNGRY FOR NEWS?



One school year finished, another starting

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"My students eagerly await their food bags each week. Several have mentioned that the food in the bags is the only meals they get over the weekend."

"This is a great program that helps many of our students. I would hate to think what these children might have to eat if it was not for this program. Students often ask for their food bag and make sure to take home their siblings bag if they are

absent when the bag is distributed."

"The kids love getting the backpack and always look forward to getting the food. Some kids say they ran out of food over the weekend so it is very concerning what would happen without the program. Kids also say they like the food."

"This program provides a tremendous service to our students and we are very grateful to everyone who works diligently to assist

our students!"

"You would not believe the kids that stop and ask me at times when they will be getting their food bag. So many kids do not have enough food at home and this is something that really helps the children over the weekend."

"Without that food bag they would most likely not have much food at all to eat, if any."



More teacher feedback on the backpack program

Special points of interest:

- No starvation, but hunger footprints everywhere.
- Hunger hurts.
- Enable people to bounce back.
- "She loved opening the bag."

"The students I had this year always asked on Friday if I had their bags. They looked forward and appreciated getting them."

"This makes a huge difference for some of our students, many of whom do not have stable meals unless they are at school. We are so VERY, VERY appreciative of this program and the impact it has on our students' physical, social/emotional, academic, and spiritual needs!"

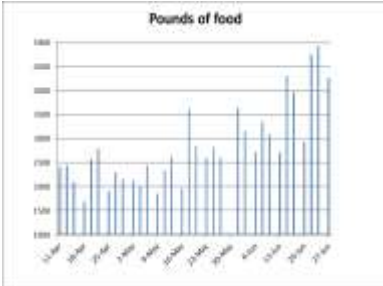
"About four years ago I had a student to wrap his cheese sandwich up and hand it to me. He said, 'Will you save this so I can take it home this afternoon so when my stomach hurts tomorrow I will have something to eat.' These are the students who receive backpacks."

"As a staff member of Millers Creek Elementary I see each week how much these bags mean to the children. There are many

instances where this is really the only food they may get all weekend."

"Students who need this program are not always certain there will be food enough for everyone in their home each day. Just knowing you will have food over the weekend is a huge stress reducer for these kids. They can concentrate on being a kid and on school."

New scales “weigh in”



In order to better account for our effectiveness, we have installed a new set of platform scales at the exit of the Client Choice Pantry. The surface of the scales is 4'X4' and can easily hold a grocery cart loaded with food. We don't have to guess at the food weight anymore. We know exactly how much comes in and how much goes out.

On average we serve between 30 and 40

families each day in the Client Choice Pantry (open Monday, Wednesday and Friday).

OTHER PANTRIES

The Manna Project, in Petoskey, Mich., has been successfully distributing food for two decades by simply getting from the food bank all that they can, displaying it and permitting clients to take what they need as much and as often as the client

needs to.

At the beautiful, very store-like pantries of The Colony, near Dallas, Texas, volunteers check the prices of goods in the store and mark those prices on goods in the pantry. Each client is given a budget (how many dollars' worth of food they can take) and then “shops” through the pantry within that budget.

Hunger's reach

They “found hunger’s fingerprints everywhere.”

A research study of hunger relief programs by Michigan State University became known as the Waste Not Want Not Project. This research concluded that hunger was the area's most pressing unmet need.

The research had not revealed starvation, but “had found hunger’s fingerprints everywhere.” It didn't matter where they looked or what issue they looked into, hunger

was always lurking in the shadows, having either caused or at least having exacerbated the problem. Problem pregnancies and the incidence of premature low birth-weight high-risk babies often linked back to poor prenatal nutrition. Kids too listless or restless to pay attention to their lessons in school often tracked back to the fact that they were simply too hungry to care. In

altogether too many classrooms school lunch was the only predictable food in many children's lives.

Teens living in what is now known as “food insecurity” were much more likely to have health problems, get into trouble, use drugs or alcohol, drop out of school and attempt suicide than were teens that have reliable food access.

Hunger is a factor in many problems

Obviously ending hunger won't eliminate drug and alcohol use, prostitution, domestic violence, or any of the other problems, but hunger is such an evident and obvious cause or contributing factor in so many specific instances, we simply have to

eliminate hunger if we ever hope to make our community the kind of place we want it to be.

Hunger is only rarely ennobling or uplifting. Hunger hurts. Hunger can tear people and families apart emotionally, physically and sometimes

spiritually. It can cause people to seek relief in drink or drugs, or to strike out in helpless fear, frustration and humiliation.

People face that dilemma today. Their family is hungry. They need your help.



With a \$2.00 donation, we can buy this!

Doesn't providing food assistance produce dependency?

The vast majority of people seeking food assistance do so for only a short time, because some situation or crisis has arisen in their lives (car trouble, job loss, a divorce, an accident) and thrown them for a loop. Food assistance has a critical role to play in helping to contain the situation, keeping families from having to choose between rent and food, food and medicine, food

and credit card payments, – choices that can easily transform a transient crisis into a financial death-spiral.

In other words, by providing food assistance at the right time, we enable people to “bounce back” to self-sufficiency much faster than they might otherwise.

Even in the cases of people who do wind up seeking food assistance

on a long-term basis, receiving such assistance is a critical prerequisite to their ability to do the things that might ultimately lead them to self-sufficiency.

As a wise man once said, “If you know where your family’s next meal is coming from, you can have many problems – but if not, you only have one.”

WISH LIST

Pliers
tape measure,
hand tools,
crescent wrench,
entry door mat

Your backpacks fed over 600 each week

Our school back pack program fed over 600 students almost every weekend this past school year. Teachers and guidance counselors picked up and delivered the packs for the children. Volunteers hauled the food and packed the bags.

This coming school year, additional pledges are needed to feed even more children.

Through this “backpack” program, Samaritan Kitchen provides food for needy schoolchildren who otherwise might go hungry during weekends.

All children qualify for free meals in Wilkes schools, but that only feeds youngsters on school days. Through Samaritan Kitchen Backpack Program, every week, each needy child goes home with six meals.



Family struggles

“I have witnessed many families positively influenced by the backpack program. One of our families suffered from a loss of housing this year. The students and parents were struggling with basic needs and necessities. Each week when I took

the students the food bag they would thank me. One day one of the students had not seen her bag delivered to her classroom yet and became concerned because she was dependent on it for her weekend. She came to see where her food bag

was. She shared with me that she loved opening the bag when she got home each Friday to see what it contained. She told me the thing that she loved most was the canned tuna and crackers because her mom could warm it up for her.”

“Their eyes light up with excitement. On Friday afternoons it’s like receiving a Christmas gift.”

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DONATE TODAY!



Thanks for you volunteers



About Samaritan Kitchen of Wilkes...

We are volunteers, donors and staff who share a desire to make a difference in other people's lives.

"For I was hungry and you gave me food..."
-Matthew 25:35



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