

I love you Mrs. Conrad
thank you for
helping my family
and giving us
food when we
need it.



2017
BackPack
Report


Shared Harvest
FOODBANK

BACKPACK MATTERS

Most children don't want summer to ever end: those endless days of leisure, fun in the sun, chasing the ice cream truck, playing in the sprinkler, cook outs, vacations... the stuff of childhood. I can remember wonderful long days at the beach in my mom's home town of Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. We'd have bonfires on the beach some evenings while we went floundering and then cleaned and grilled them fresh out of the water. The best was the big shrimp and crab boils my aunt used to have from what we netted crabbing off the seawall or bought directly from the shrimping boats when they returned to dock. The whole family would gather around big tables covered with newspapers and my Aunt Mat would bring huge batches of fresh blue crab and gulf shrimp, boiled to perfection with just the right spices. Then we would top off this grand feast with ice cold watermelon and a seed spitting contest. What great memories I have – not a care in the world, which is how it should be when you are a child.

But thousands of children in southwest Ohio can't wait for summer to end because they know at school they will get a good meal or two, at least during the week. But what about the weekends? That's where the Backpack Program becomes a critical component for these students to have a successful academic year. The Backpack Program provides enough wholesome food for thousands of children to eat on the weekends so they can return to school on Mondays hungry to learn instead of hungry for food.

Intervening in these young children's lives with something as simple as a bag of food each weekend, gives them the energy, acuity and inspiration to participate on par with their better fed peers, improving attendance, classroom participation and academic achievement. It is not often we have the opportunity to really improve the lives of children who face multiple obstacles – in the long run this small investment can help them grow into healthy, caring and responsible adults. And then maybe they can make great summertime memories with their own kids.



Tina Osso
Executive Director
Shared Harvest Foodbank

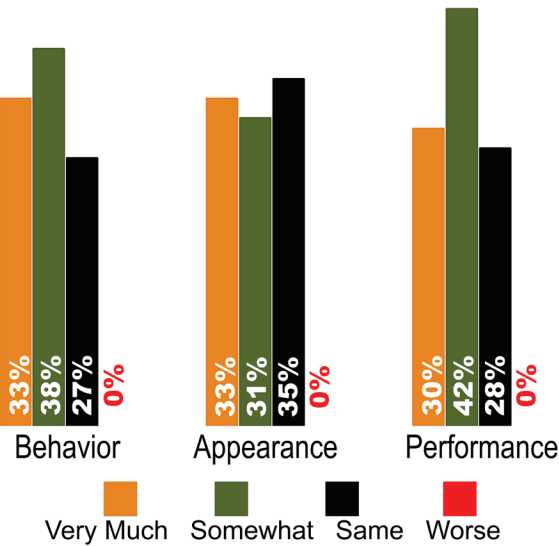


Butler County,
Warren County,
Greater Cincinnati,
Oxford & Vicinity



BACKPACK HAS IMPACT

Improvement in BackPack Students 2016-17



810 evaluation forms distributed, 529 Evaluation Forms Returned, 65% Response

My student was getting into trouble daily in the cafeteria for stealing food & grabbing other children's food because she was hungry. In the classroom, my student was chronically complaining of being hungry. These food bags were a tremendous blessing!

- Elda Elementary
Butler County

My student who receives food from the Panther BackPack program recently wrote that they want to be a teacher when they grow up.

It's been such a positive school year.

Also, this student has a food allergy, so foods that contain that allergen are shared by the student with classmates. This is such a thoughtful gesture. This student tried to donate the weekly food bag to the food drive in the fall. They wanted to take part in being generous.

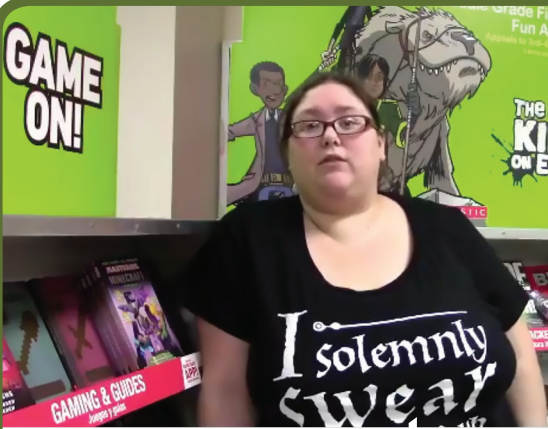
- Salem Elementary, Warren County

There is a student in my class that told me the only food he has over the weekend is what he pulls from the bag.

- Crawford Woods Elementary
Butler County



BACKPACK HELPS FAMILIES



ELLEN'S STORY

It is sometimes difficult to make sure I have food for everybody in my family. I have skipped meals to make sure my kids have enough food. Every night, I'm the last one to eat because by the time I finish making their plates they're asking for seconds. They come first; I come second. A lot of times, it's come down to being short \$50 to \$100 on a bill to make sure I have enough milk, enough meat, enough vegetables to make sure they have a balanced meal. If this program did not exist, then my bills would always be late. It would be very stressful, very hard. For me, it helps bridge that gap and I can make sure all my bills are paid because I don't have to make sure I have enough food for everybody.

Ellen
A BackPack Mom

This is so important for so many of my students. One little boy I have is always hungry and there is little food in his house. I've contacted Children's Services about this family and an investigation took place. The file was closed but everything was cleaned up. Once the file was closed the family went back to the same practice of not providing food to the kids who are very thin, so this student needs this service. I know he shares this with his two little sisters. This is food he can hide from his parents.

- Crawford Woods
Elementary
Butler County

Devan does a much better job at focusing in the mornings since receiving the backpacks. He complains less frequently about not having food.

- Broadway Elementary
Miami County

BACKPACK FILLS A NEED

SERVING THESE SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Anisonia Local
Arcanum Local
Bradford Local
Fairfield City
Greenville Local
Hamilton City
Kings Local
Lakota Local
Lebanon City
Little Miami Local
Madison Local
Middletown City
Monroe City
New Miami Local
Piqua City
Ross Local
Springboro Local
Talawanda Local
Tipp City Local
Tri-Village Local

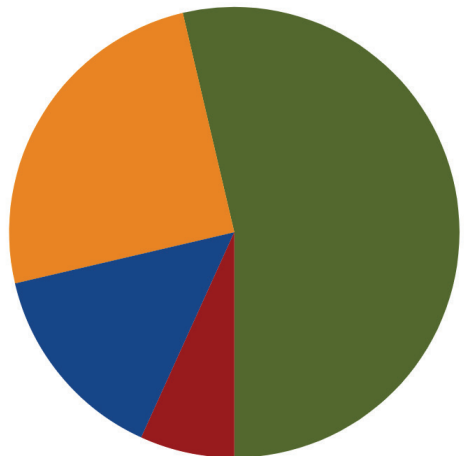
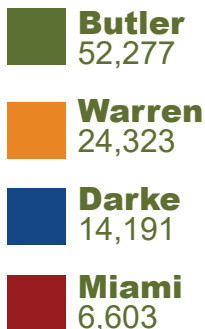
PLUS
23 Head Start Programs

One of my students came in tired and hungry every day and was approximately a year behind academically. He often cried and seemed sad each morning. Since the bags went home on weekends and he's getting breakfast at school, I've noticed he seems so much happier and his overall appearance is healthier. He's showed academic improvement as well! Thanks for providing this food for our needy students.

*- Bowman Elementary
Warren County*

BAGS BY COUNTY

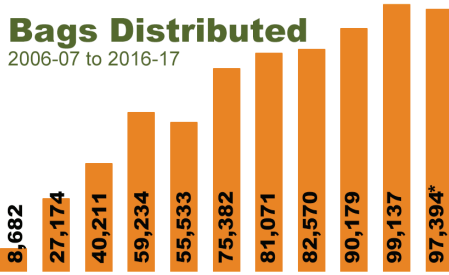
2016-17 School Year



BACKPACK IS GROWING

Bags Distributed

2006-07 to 2016-17

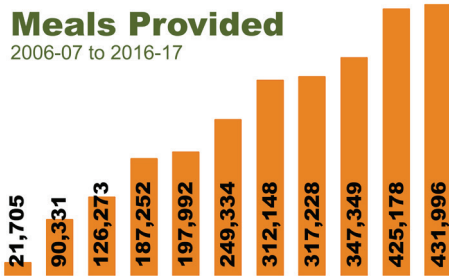


*A slight dip in the actual number because the school year started two weeks before the Backpack Program year.

This past school year, with our dedicated partners and hundreds of volunteers, we served an average of 3,546 children each weekend, that's nearly 400 more kids than we served in the 2015-16 school year. In the 2016-17 school year, your generosity provided nearly 97,394 bags of food – 431,996 meals – meals these kids would have gone without, right here in southwest Ohio.

Meals Provided

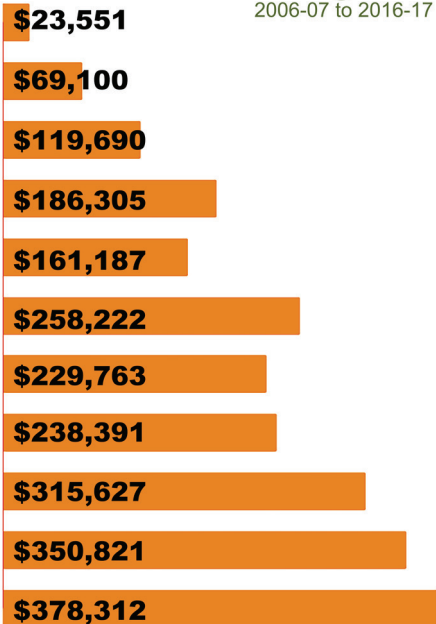
2006-07 to 2016-17



MANY THANKS TO OUR BACKPACK PARTNERS

Cost of Program

2006-07 to 2016-17



- Booker T. Washington Community Center
- Butler County Early Childhood Development
- Butler County Success
- Grace Resurrection Community Center
- Hamilton City School District
- Heritage Baptist
- Holy Family St. Vincent DePaul
- Joshua's Place
- Middletown City School District
- Munch Bunch Backpack
- New Miami Local School District
- New Path Outreach
- Panther Backpack
- Ross Local School District
- Springboro Community Assistance Center
- St. Mary's of Oxford, Friends of Neighbors in Need
- Tipp City Church of the Nazarene

BACKPACK NEEDS YOU

**PLEASE CONSIDER
SPONSORING
A CHILD FOR
THE BACKPACK
PROGRAM**



\$4 sponsors one child
for one weekend



\$15 sponsors one child
for one month



\$120 sponsors one child
for the year



USE THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE

Or Visit SharedHarvest.org

Click on "Donate Now"

& Designate BackPack Program

Thanks for your support!


Shared Harvest

FOODBANK



FOODBANK

**HUNGER IS NOT A CHOICE.
GIVING IS.**

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