

**NORTH COUNTRY**

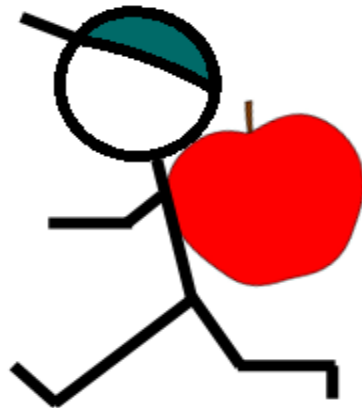


1011 11th Ave NE • East Grand Forks, MN 56721  
Telephone 218.399.7356 • Fax 218.281.7374

[www.northcountryfoodbank.org](http://www.northcountryfoodbank.org)

**FOOD BANK, INC.**

# **BACKPACK PROGRAM INFORMATION KIT & FORMS**



## **Food for Kids**

### **BackPack Program**

## INTRODUCTION TO THE BACKPACK PROGRAM

### **The Mission...**

The mission of the Backpack Program is to help alleviate child hunger in America by providing hungry children with nutritious and easy-to-prepare food at times when other resources are not available, such as weekends and school vacations. The program provides backpacks filled with food that is child-friendly, nonperishable, and easily-consumed. Backpacks are discreetly distributed to children on the last day before the weekend or holiday vacation.

### **The Concept...**

The Backpack Program concept was developed in 1995 at a Food Bank in Little Rock, Arkansas. A nurse at an inner city school noticed a number of students complaining of dizziness and upset stomachs when they returned to school on Mondays. The nurse was sure these symptoms were signs of hunger. The nurse began a partnership with the local Food Bank and began handing out the food to students at the school. The Backpack Program is now a registered Feeding America program.

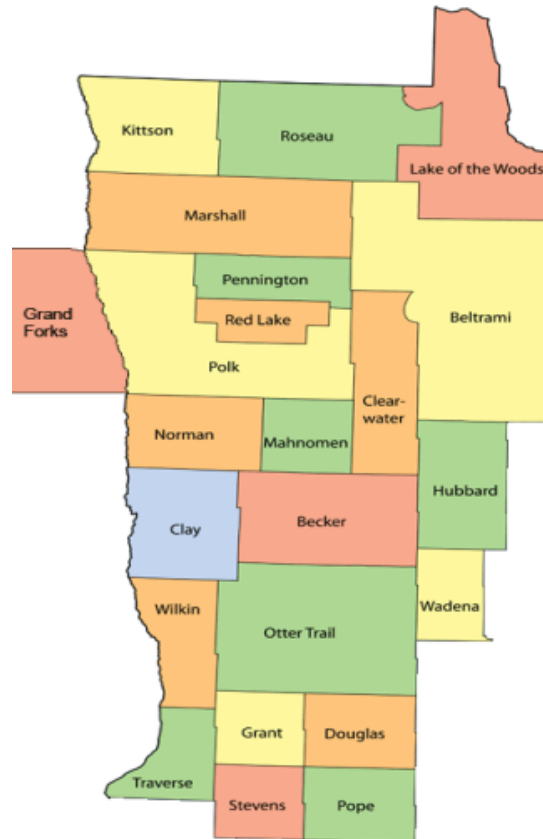
### **The Distribution Method...**

Schools are typically the preferred distribution site for Backpack Programs. In general, schools offer the greatest probability of regular and consistent access to targeted program participants. School personnel also often have the first-hand knowledge needed to identify children in need, and employ individuals that are ideal to coordinate the program at the respective site. However, there are Backpack programs that successfully administer the program through other types of sites. To run a successful Backpack Program requires committed and caring partners. Currently, there are 34 school districts in North Country's service area that successfully run this program.

## PROGRAM PLAYERS

### **North Country Food Bank, Inc.**

North Country Food Bank, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation located in Crookston, Minnesota. North Country distributes almost 5 million pounds of food annually to more than 230 charitable organizations. North Country's service area covers 21 counties in northwest and west central Minnesota, and part of Grand Forks, North Dakota. A map of North Country's service area is listed below:



### **Feeding America:**

Feeding America is the nation's largest charitable hunger-relief organization with a network of more than 200 regional member Food Banks serving all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The Feeding America Network secures and distributes nearly two billion pounds of donated food and grocery products annually. North Country has been a member Food Bank with Feeding America since January 1984. North Country's Backpack Program is a registered program with Feeding America.

## ROLES OF PROGRAM PARTNERS

### **The Role of North Country Food Bank, Inc.:**

- ✓ Appoint a primary contact for the Backpack Program to provide oversight and leadership in program research, design and development, and collaborative guidance in program implementation.
- ✓ Ensure that the Backpack Program partner meets national and local Backpack Program objectives through annual monitoring inspections and periodic site visits during designated hours of operation. Any issues needing to be addressed will be communicated in writing to the School and Sponsor.
- ✓ Identify and procure staple food items and/or supplies necessary for the operation of a Backpack Program.
- ✓ Provide or coordinate training opportunities for Backpack Program staff and volunteers as appropriate, such as program administration, safe food handling, and nutrition education.
- ✓ Schedule Backpack Program meetings to facilitate communication and information sharing between program partners.
- ✓ Provide the Sponsor with regular sales order and invoices identifying the costs of the Backpack Program.

### **The Role of the School:**

- ✓ Distribute healthy, nutritious food to children free of charge.
- ✓ Provide backpacks to children a minimum of once a month during the school year.
- ✓ Have staff and volunteers with repetitive contact with children pass a National Background Search.
- ✓ Ensure that the site complies with all applicable Federal and local statutes, ordinances and regulations.
- ✓ Inform North Country Food Bank in writing of any changes in the Backpack Program personnel, days, hours of operation, and/or number of children served.
- ✓ Provide necessary information about the school/site.
- ✓ Identify children that meet the eligibility guidelines for your school/site.
- ✓ Inform parents/guardians about the program.
- ✓ Use school records to identify food allergies any child may have (i.e. peanuts, milk, etc.), and flag their name so that those items will not be distributed to them.
- ✓ Be available for at least one annual site visit.
- ✓ Receive deliveries on the designated day.
- ✓ Store the food that is delivered to the school/site off of the floor in a secure place.

- ✓ Distribute the backpacks/carriers to the students for the weekend.
- ✓ Keep accurate records and submit reports to North Country to assist in program evaluation.
- ✓ Communicate problems and requests to North Country in a timely manner.
- ✓ Work with the Sponsor to help fund the Backpack Program.

**The Role of the Fiscal Sponsor:**

- ✓ Provide proof of its 501(c)(3) status with the Internal Revenue Service or meet the criteria of a church as defined by the IRS. Evidence of status will be provided to North Country.
- ✓ Serve as the fiduciary agent of the Backpack Program.
- ✓ Support the Backpack Program operations by paying fees at the prevailing rates.
- ✓ Pay Backpack Program invoices by the end of the month following the second month in which the invoice is dated. For example, invoices dated in January must be paid by the end of March. Sponsors with amounts that are past due may be refused service.
- ✓ Maintain adequate books and records of products received from North Country for a minimum of three (3) years and will make them available upon request.
- ✓ Communicate problems and requests to North Country in a timely manner.
- ✓ Work with the School to help fund the Backpack Program.

**The Role of the School & Sponsor:**

- ✓ Distribute healthy, nutritious food to children free of charge.
- ✓ Provide backpacks to children a minimum of once a month during the school year.
- ✓ Comply with the attached Rules & Guidelines.
- ✓ Accept the food/product "as is."
- ✓ Inspect the food/product as soon after receipt by the agency as is practicable to determine whether the food/product is fit for consumption/use. If not, the School or Sponsor will immediately discard any unfit food/product and advise North Country. The School and Sponsor are not responsible for hidden unobservable defects (defects which a prudent inspection would not disclose).

**The role of the School Site Coordinator:**

North Country strongly recommends each school participating in the Backpack Program designate a Site Coordinator. The Site Coordinator should be respectful of the confidentiality of the children being served, and adhere to the agreed upon terms of the Backpack Program Partner Agreement. The site coordinator position typically requires no more than two hours of work per month. However, this may vary based on the number of program participants, and level of support from other staff members and volunteers. The role of the Site Coordinator is as follows:

- ✓ Attend required Backpack Program orientation and meetings.
- ✓ Manage the distribution of backpacks.
- ✓ Help to ensure that the confidentiality of participants is protected.
- ✓ Communicate any necessary information about the Backpack Program to North Country.
- ✓ Make contact with referred students and parents to explain the program
- ✓ Maintain and submit all necessary records and reports (student referrals, distribution records, etc.).
- ✓ Call North Country when food supply is low or the numbers need to be adjusted.
- ✓ Assure that food is being properly stored off the floor and on shelves, tables, etc.
- ✓ Keep the stock rotated – use oldest items first.
- ✓ Account for backpacks/carriers.

### **Standards & Requirements:**

- ✓ Healthy, nutritious food must be distributed to children free of charge.
- ✓ Backpacks must be provided a minimum of once a month during the school year.
- ✓ The Backpack Program must provide a carrier filled with easy-to-prepare food per child each time the program is operating.
- ✓ Staff and volunteers with direct repetitive contact with the children must pass a National Background Search.
- ✓ Schools that do not have a non-profit status must find a Community Partner or a Fiscal Sponsor that has a 501(c)3 IRS determination.
- ✓ Backpack programs are asked to gather the following data monthly:
  - Number of carriers (e.g., backpacks) distributed per month;
  - Number of participants served per month; and
  - Number of times backpacks are distributed per month.
- ✓ The sustainability of your Backpack Program is important. North Country does not want to start a program that children become dependent upon for food, and then take it away from them. For this reason, in order to start a Backpack Program, there must be enough funding to continue the program throughout the duration of the school year.

### **IDENTIFICATION:**

The decision of who will be responsible for identifying and referring program participants is usually made by each individual site. There is not one standard approach. Generally, site coordinators manage the referral process, and utilize their colleagues for helping to identify the appropriate children.

Referrals are typically made by teachers, school counselors, nurses, and social service providers. It is important that site staff members have a clear understanding of the program, and specifically, the referral guidelines and procedures. A good place to start is with children who receive Free and Reduced Meals. Although, this should not be your only criteria as there may be children who need help more because they fall through the cracks in the system.

Backpacks have the advantage of being a ready and secure means of distributing food to children in need. Backpacks also maintain a level of confidentiality by not making the food visible to other children, which helps to protect the dignity of program participants. Backpacks of different varieties can provide an added level of discretion to the program. The BackPack program is rooted in not just a mission to provide food to hungry children, but to preserve children's dignity by minimizing the stigma of poverty.

The importance of anonymity varies. In some instances, children or their parents are embarrassed when others know they receive food aid. In other cases, the children look forward to receiving their backpacks and carry them with pride. One participant said backpacks are "the only present I receive at school." In either case, the key word for your program should be dignity, not anonymity.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### **How to respond to a child who says he is hungry:**

A child who complains about being hungry is not necessarily a child who automatically qualifies for the Backpack Program. Growing children have an appetite and will say they are hungry at periods throughout the day. However, in the case of a chronically hungry child, certain questions can be asked to assess need. In the morning a child may say they are hungry. Ask them if they ate breakfast. If they are eligible for free or reduced price breakfast then make sure they are taking advantage of this program. If they say they skipped breakfast, find out why. Ask if they had enough food in their house or if they simply woke up late and didn't have time to eat.

### **Food Allergies**

North Country is unable to adjust the Backpack menu for all possible food allergies. Because of this, we advise you to check the contents of each pack and remove any questionable food to ensure the safety of the students with food allergies or if your school has special food restrictions, please notify North Country as soon as possible.

### **Supplemental Product**

North Country encourages community partners and/or schools to add supplemental product to the backpacks for the students. Supplemental items should be approved by the school before being put into the backpacks.

### **Absences**

In the event a student is absent for any reason on the primary distribution day, they should receive the food from the backpack on their first day back to school. The food should not be "held back" for disciplinary reasons.

### **Snow days**

In the event of an impending snow day on the regular distribution day, schools have the option to distribute food early, wait until the normal distribution day or wait until the following week. For example if the weather reports predict bad weather for Thursday night into Friday, you can give out the food on Thursday.

### **Recall Information**

North Country and Feeding America are diligent in watching for recalled food items. In the event of a food recall, staff at North Country will check to see if any food in the Backpack bag was recalled. If the food was recalled North Country will immediately start pulling that food item from the packs we have on hand. Schools and community partners will be notified via e-mail on the steps they are to take.



## **Storage**

- Storage locations should be large enough to hold their normal delivery volume plus one week. For example, if your delivery location receives food every 2 weeks, then they need to have storage space for 3 full weeks of product. This is to ensure that schools will always have food on hand in case of a weather related closing at North Country and to eliminate emergency food deliveries.
- Product must be stored at least 6 inches off of the floor and not within 10 inches of the ceiling.
- Product must be stored in a clean, dry environment.
- Please keep each different “pack” of food separate.
- Damaged or infested product should be reported to North Country as soon as possible so the food can be replaced.

## **Inventory control**

When delivery is made, the boxes should be counted to confirm the number delivered. Assure that food is being properly stored off the floor and away from the walls on shelves, tables, etc.

## **Parental Consent**

North Country does not require parental consent for a student to be in the Backpack Program. Some parents or guardians may be scared or afraid to sign up for a program like this. For this reason North Country recommends that the schools use a parental consent letter that places the burden of rejection on the parent. For example, *“Dear parent, your student has been selected to participate in the Backpack Program. If you do not want your child to participate in this club, please notify the school.”* However, your school may choose to require parental consent. In either case, we have provided a sample letters for you in this handbook.

## **Media & Marketing**

North Country will provide public relations support for special events, including, but not limited to:

- Grand Openings
- Celebrity Visits
- News Media

Schools and community partners should notify North Country of all media requests and media coverage for the Backpack Program

# **Backpack Program Planning Checklist**

**Identify students that are believed to be chronically hungry.**

- ✓ Fill out a referral form, to be collected by the site coordinator.

**Determine a location where food can be safely stored.**

- ✓ Needs to be at least 6 inches off of the floor, and secure. You will need to store up to 1 month worth of supplies.

**Assign tasks to the staff involved.**

- ✓ Staff responsibilities include:
  - Ensuring confidentiality;
  - Distributing packs into backpacks or lockers (**PLEASE NOTE:** students cannot be involved in the distribution of backpacks);
  - Meeting the delivery truck and helping to unload the boxes;
  - Keeping track of paperwork and qualification information;
  - Reporting changes in the number of packs needed; and
  - Providing feedback to the Food Bank.

**Plan out the logistics.**

- ✓ How will the children receive the packs on Friday? Will they pick them up at a central location? Will they be distributed into lockers or backpacks?
- ✓ Will the children need to be given backpacks, or will they use their own?
- ✓ How will you track to ensure that the backpacks are going only to children enrolled in the program?

**Communicate with participants and their parents.**

- ✓ Talk to the student and make sure the following is communicated:
  - Confirm that there is a need;
  - Explain when and where to pick up the backpack;
  - Tell them that the food is for them to eat when they get hungry throughout the weekend;
  - Communicate that they should not open the pack until they get home (to cut down on the number of children who may want one, but might not be eligible); and
  - Explain that if things improve at home and they do not need the food anymore they can tell the coordinator.
- ✓ Contact the parents of each participant by sending a letter, explaining that the program is optional, and collecting consent for participation.

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**SITE APPLICATION – Backpack Program**

Name of School or Agency:		
Mailing Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Principal or Director's Name:	County:	
Street Address (physical location):		
City:	State:	Zip:
Site Coordinator:		
Coordinator's E-Mail Address:		
Phone Number:	Fax Number:	
How many of your kids would you estimate are chronically hungry?		
What percentage of your students are on the Free/Reduced Price Lunch Program?		
Hours of Operation:	Age of Children Served:	
<b>Facility:</b>		
Is there a location available to store boxes from delivery until distribution?	yes	no
Can food be stored at least 6" off of the floor?	yes	no
Is it secure?	yes	no
Is there a dock, or other location to receive deliveries?	yes	no
<b>I CERTIFY THAT THIS INFORMATION IS TRUE AND COMPLETE</b>		
Signature of Principal or Executive Director:		Date:

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**CONTACT INFORMATION – Backpack Program**

Name of School:		County:
Street Address (physical location):		
Delivery Address (If different from school)		
City:	State:	Zip:
Principal:	Phone Number:	
Email:		
Site Coordinator:	Phone Number:	
Email:		
Delivery Contact Person:	Phone Number:	
Email:		
Fiscal Sponsor:		
Email:		
Fiscal Contact:	Phone Number:	
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Signature:		Date:

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## **RULES & GUIDELINES**

1. All Backpack Programs must have an approved fiscal sponsor with a 501(c)3 nonprofstatus in place prior to initiating the Backpack Program.
2. Healthy, nutritious food must be distributed to children under the Backpack Program free of charge.
3. Food must be provided to children under the Backpack Program a minimum of once a month during the school year. A Back Pack program must provide a carrier filled with easy-to-prepare food per child each time the program is operating.
4. Staff and volunteers with direct repetitive contact with the children must pass a National Background Search.
5. Backpack Programs must collect and provide the following information to North Country Food Bank, Inc. on a monthly basis:
  - a. Number of carriers (e.g., backpacks) distributed per month
  - b. Number of participants served per month
  - c. Number of times backpacks are distributed per month
6. There will be two sign-up periods for Backpack Programs annually. The sign-up periods will be August 1 – September 30, and December 1 – January 31.
7. Schools or sites that receive delivery of the Backpack Program food must offload the delivery with a sufficient number of volunteers, or a fork lift, and store the food in a safe and secure manner that complies with the rules and regulations of North Country Food Bank, Inc.
8. Schools or Sponsors of the Backpack Program will provide the name, address, e-mail and telephone number of one individual who is authorized to place and change Backpack orders.
9. Upon placing an order with North Country, the order will be considered a standard monthly order until changed by the authorized individual. Agencies may change their standing orders any time up to two weeks prior to their delivery date.
10. Schools or Sponsors of the Backpack Program will provide the name, address, e-mail and telephone number of the site coordinator who will oversee and manage the distribution of Backpack Program food.

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**BACK PACK PROGRAM  
PARTNER AGREEMENT**

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**THIS BACK PACK PROGRAM PARTNER AGREEMENT**, (hereafter “Agreement”), is made and entered into this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021, by and between North Country Food Bank, Inc., (hereafter “NCFB”); \_\_\_\_\_, (hereafter “School”); and \_\_\_\_\_, (hereafter “Sponsor”). By signing this Agreement, the parties acknowledge their respective duties and responsibilities related to the administration of the BackPack Program as stated herein.

**NCFB** agrees to:

1. Appoint a primary contact for the BackPack Program to provide oversight and leadership in program research, design and development, and collaborative guidance in program implementation.
2. Ensure that the BackPack Program at the School meets national and local BackPack Program objectives through annual monitoring inspections and periodic site visits during designated hours of operation. Any issues needing to be addressed will be communicated in writing to the School and Sponsor.
3. Identify and procure staple food items and/or supplies necessary for the operation of a BackPack Program.
4. Provide or coordinate training opportunities for BackPack Program staff and volunteers, as appropriate, such as program administration, safe food handling and nutrition education.
5. Schedule Back Pack Program meetings to facilitate communication and information sharing.
6. Provide the Sponsor with regular sales orders and invoices identifying the costs of the BackPack Program.

The **School** agrees to:

1. Distribute healthy, nutritious food to children free of charge.
2. Provide backpacks to children a minimum of once a month during the school year.
3. Have staff and volunteers with repetitive contact with children pass a National Background Search.
4. Ensure that the site complies with all applicable Federal and local statutes, ordinances and regulations.

5. Inform NCFB in writing of any changes in the Back Pack Program personnel, days, hours of operation, and/or number of children served.
6. Provide necessary information about the school/site.
7. Identify children that meet the eligibility guidelines for your school/site.
8. Inform parents/guardians about the program.
9. Use school records to identify food allergies any child may have (i.e peanuts, milk, etc.) and flag their name, so that those items will not be distributed to them.
10. Be available for at least one annual site visit.
11. Receive deliveries on the designated day.
12. Store the food that is delivered to the school/site off of the floor in a secure place.
13. Distribute the back packs/carriers to the students for the weekend.
14. Keep accurate records and submit reports to North Country to assist in program evaluation.
15. Communicate problems and requests to North Country in a timely manner.
16. Work with the Sponsor to help fund the Backpack Program.

The **Sponsor** agrees to:

1. Provide proof of its 501(c)(3) status with the Internal Revenue Service or meet the criteria of a church as defined by the IRS. Evidence of status will be provided to North Country.
2. Serve as the fiduciary agent of the Backpack Program.
3. Support the Backpack Program operations by paying fees at the prevailing rates.
4. Pay Backpack Program invoices by the end of the month following the second month in which the invoice is dated. For example, invoices dated in January must be paid by the end of March. Sponsors with amounts that are past due may be refused service.
5. Maintain adequate books and records of products received from North Country for a minimum of three (3) years and will make them available upon request.
6. Communicate problems and requests to North Country in a timely manner.
7. Work with the School to help fund the Backpack Program.

The **School** and **Sponsor** agree to:

1. Distribute healthy, nutritious food to children free of charge.
2. Provide backpacks to children a minimum of once a month during the school year.
3. Comply with the attached Rules & Guidelines.
4. Accept the food/product "as is."
5. Inspect the food/product as soon after receipt by the agency as is practicable to determine whether the food/product is fit for consumption/use. If not, the School or Sponsor will immediately discard any unfit food/product and advise North Country. The School and Sponsor are not responsible for hidden unobservable defects (defects which a prudent inspection would not disclose).

**Termination:** This Agreement may be terminated at will by either party with written notice delivered to either party at their normal mailing address not less than 30 days prior to the desired termination date, or at the end of the school year, whichever is sooner. Upon termination of this Agreement, the School and Sponsor will return any equipment and/or materials provided by NCFB for the Backpack Program to NCFB within 30 days of the termination date.

**North Country Food Bank, Inc.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Its: \_\_\_\_\_

**School**

Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Its: \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsor:**

Name of Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Its: \_\_\_\_\_



## BACK PACK - Referral Form

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Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

The BackPack Program is for children you feel are chronically hungry. The program provides backpacks filled with food on Fridays to children who might otherwise not have food over the weekend. To refer a child to the BackPack Program, please check one or more of the following behaviors that the child displays on a *regular* basis.

- Rushing food lines
- Extreme hunger on Monday morning
- Quickly eating all of the food served and asking for more
- Asking when the next meal/snack will be served
- Regularly asking their teacher for food
- Saving/hoarding/stealing food to take home for themselves and/or a sibling
- Lingered around for or asking for seconds
- Comments about not having enough food at home
- Asking classmates for food they don't want
- Other information regarding the child's home situation that requires the need for food. *Please be as thorough as possible in your explanation:*

**Other factors that may be present and may help you identify a chronically hungry child:**

**Physical Appearance:** Extreme thinness; puffy/swollen skin; chronically dry/cracked lips; and/or chronically dry and itchy eyes

**School Performance:** Excessive absences and/or tardiness; repetition of a grade; chronic sickness; short attention span/inability to concentrate; and/or chronic behavior problems (hyperactive, irritable, anxious, withdrawn, etc)

**Home Environment:** Often cooks own meal, or has another sibling who does; moves frequently; loss of household income; and/or family crisis

**Does this child have a pre-school sibling?** YES or NO

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Name/Title of person referring the student*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

For the School Coordinator:

- Check to confirm child's approval and then initial here: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional notes:

## SAMPLE FUNDRAISING LETTER

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Date

In re: Backpack Program - \_\_\_\_\_, Minnesota

Dear Friend:

We need your help! One in six Americans struggles with hunger. This includes neighbors and friends in \_\_\_\_\_, Minnesota, and the surrounding communities. Some people are worried about how they may be affected by the current economy. Others have already experienced a major change in lifestyle, and are trying to deal with it. Now, on top of this, imagine having to figure out where your next meal will come from.

The \_\_\_\_\_ School is working to start a Backpack Program. In Minnesota, over 50% of those using emergency feeding programs are children. At \_\_\_\_\_ School alone, the number of children receiving free or reduced lunch has increased from \_\_\_\_\_% to \_\_\_\_\_% in the last \_\_\_\_\_ years. Typically, most children whose families are struggling don't eat well when school is not in session. The Backpack Program will help address this issue. As part of this program, children receive a bag filled with nutritious, kid friendly food on a Friday or on the last day of school prior to a holiday. This provides the children with enough food to get them through the weekend, until school is in session again.

We need your help to fund this program. The estimated cost of running this program at \_\_\_\_\_ School during the school year is \$\_\_\_\_\_ (# of kids x # of distributions x \$4.00). There couldn't be a more meaningful time than now to take a stand against hunger. No child should have to worry about whether or not they are going to be able to eat when they are not in school. Any contribution you can make will help ensure that no child in our community goes to bed hungry.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Name

Title

---

**SAMPLE LETTER TO PARENTS**

---

Date~

Dear Parent:

Your child has been invited to participate in the Backpack Program. This program is a partnership between \_\_\_\_\_ (Insert School Name) and North Country Food Bank, Inc. to provide food for your child over the weekend or holiday breaks.

The Backpack Program will provide your child with a bag of non-perishable food \_\_\_\_\_ (Insert: every, every other, etc.) Friday afternoon. The food will be placed in your child's backpack at the end of the school day, and is not intended to be opened until your child is home. The program is scheduled to begin on the \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 201\_\_\_, and will continue throughout the school year.

The backpack and food are provided at no cost to your child. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Name~

Title~

If you choose not to enroll your child in the program, please sign and return the bottom of this form to the school.

-----

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I do not want my child to join the Backpack Program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



**PARENT EVALUATION FORM – Backpack Program**

As a part of our efforts to assess the quality of the Backpack Program, we ask you to take a moment to complete the following evaluation form. Your responses to the following questions are greatly appreciated **Please return the completed form to your child’s School.**

**Instructions: Please check an answer for each question below.**

<b>BackPack Program is a program that...</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Not sure</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Additional Comments</b>
Is easy to participate in				
My child enjoys participating				
Helps my child eat more				
Helps my child try new foods				
Helps my family stretch our food budget				
Has improved my child’s energy level				
Has improved my child’s overall behavior				

**QUESTIONS FOR KIDS!**

**1) Do you like the Backpack Program?** \_\_\_\_\_

**2) If no, why not? If yes, what do you like best?**

\_\_\_\_\_

—

**3) Which foods do you like best from the Backpack?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**4) Which foods don't you like from the Backpack?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Thanks!**