



What is The Shepherd's Door Backpack Buddies Program?

The Backpack Buddies Program is an emergency food assistance program that provides nutritious food for children in danger of food insecurity. The food is distributed every Friday through the Northgate School District.

Why is it important?

The Shepherd's Door provides nutritious snacks and easily prepared meal items for students who may have had little or nothing to eat at home. The program gives Northgate a way to respond immediately to the child's need for food.

How does the program work?

- Northgate parents, teachers and counselors identify children in need of food assistance through observation, family need and the child's self-report.
- Once the student to be served is identified, the program is offered to all children of that family if resources are available.
- The Shepherd's Door provides nutritious foods that are easy to open and prepare.
- Northgate will pack and distribute the bags to the students making every attempt for the student/family's identity to remain confidential.

How do I enroll my child or suggest a family in need?

Please contact the Principal or counselor at your child's school building and they can take it from there.

When is enrollment and how long does the program last?

Enrollment is open for the entire school year. The program can be stopped or started at any time based on the needs of the family. New paperwork must be completed each time you enroll.

For more information or questions please contact your school counselor. You may also contact The Shepherd's Door, 563 Lincoln Avenue, 412-761-4310 or email us at info@theshepherdsdoor.org.

