

# THE BACKPACK PROGRAM at TURNPIKE ELEMENTARY



## PROGRAM GOALS AND MISSION

The BackPack Program is designed to meet the needs of hungry children on weekends when school breakfasts and lunches aren't available. The program provides bags filled with food that is child-friendly, nonperishable and easily-consumed. Bags are packed each week by school staff and discreetly distributed to participating children every Friday afternoon.

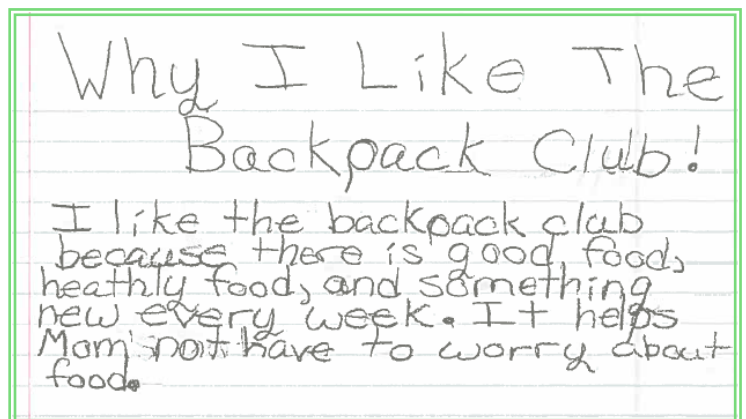
## PROGRAM IMPACT

- BackPack partners with 244 schools in 22 counties, serving over 6,700 children each week.
- Over 200,000 bags were distributed during the 2018-19 school year, the equivalent of 1.2 million meals.
- Over 115,000 pounds of fresh produce was distributed to BackPack students throughout 2018-19.
- Research has shown the BackPack Program helps improve attendance and academic performance and reduce disciplinary actions for participating students.
- BackPack food is typically shared with the family, which helps meet the nutritional needs of the entire household.
- Kids love the fresh fruit because many of them have limited opportunities to enjoy such fresh food.
- The BackPack program helps participating children learn, thrive and grow.

## TURNPIKE ELEMENTARY BACKPACK

During the 2018-19 school year, the BackPack program at Turnpike Elementary distributed 750 backpacks. The bags included:

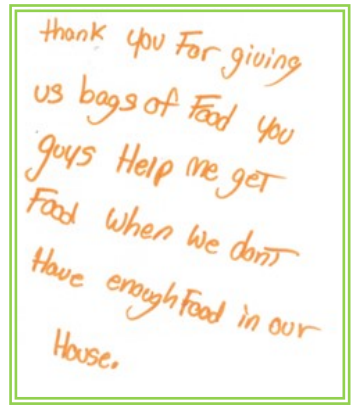
- 10923 pounds of food
- 626 pounds of fresh produce
- The equivalent of 4500 meals
- Each bag weighed an average of 15 pounds
- Serves Turnpike Elementary's children most in need as determined by school staff
- Is locally supported generous community members and organizations



## ABOUT THE BAGS

Each week, participating students receive:

- 2 breakfast items (cereal, oatmeal, graham crackers, etc.)
- 3 entrees (mac & cheese, PB & J, Spaghetti Os, tuna, soup, etc.)
- Milk card for a gallon of milk (every other week)
- Egg card for a dozen eggs (every other week)
- Loaf of bread or non-perishable grain option
- Fruit (fresh whenever possible)
- Canned vegetables once a month
- 2 snacks (cookies, popcorn, pudding)



## PARTNERING WITH THE FOOD BANK FOR TURNPIKE ELEMENTARY

The Regional Food Bank partners with Turnpike Elementary to help schools provide nourishing meals to their neediest students.

The Food Bank creates weekly menus for Turnpike Elementary and provides administrative structure and support for the program. Menus are drawn from the Food Bank's large inventory to provide diverse foods at a low cost.

Turnpike Elementary picks up the food, packs the bags, distribute bags to Turnpike Elementary students, and works to locally support the program. Local businesses, individuals, and community and religious organizations financially sustain the program.

Through this partnership, the Regional Food Bank and Turnpike Elementary are able to meet the needs of children facing chronic hunger and food insecurity and work to **alleviate hunger... together.**

**\$183** Cost of supporting one Turnpike Elementary student for a year

**\$2,750** Cost per year to support 15 Turnpike Elementary students

**\$5,500** Cost per year to support 30 Turnpike Elementary students

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**Yes, I will support Turnpike Elementary's Backpack Program and help provide a hungry child with nutritious meals during the weekend.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_  Check  Visa  American Express  Mastercard

Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Billing Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

