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August 14, 2025

Dear Grant County Community,

The Boomerang Backpack Program, offered to all students within Mississinewa Community School Corporation, has been an essential resource since its partnership with Boomerang Backpacks began in 2016. This program provides elementary students with meals to take home for the weekend, helping ensure that no child faces food insecurity.

More than 62% of students in the district qualify for free or reduced-price benefits, compared to the state average of 44%. In addition to the Boomerang Backpack Program, the district provides breakfast and lunch at no cost to all students, reinforcing the belief that proper nutrition is critical to both mental and physical development.

Participation in the Boomerang Backpack Program has grown beyond expectations, and continues to grow each year. Most recently, we had over 160 elementary students receiving weekend meal support each week. As participation rises and food costs increase, the program's budget is being depleted at a fast rate. The cost of feeding one child every weekend for an entire school year is approximately \$110.

Support from the district, community leaders, local businesses, and churches is being sought to sustain the program through the end of the school year and beyond. Efforts are also underway to secure grants and other fundraising opportunities to offset costs.

Financial contributions to the Boomerang Backpack Program directly fund meals for students, with 100% of donations going toward food purchases. Program details can be found at www.olemiss.k12.in.us under the "Department" tab in "Nutrition," or through the Boomerang Backpacks organization website at www.boomerangbackpacks.org.

Checks may be mailed to:

Mississinewa Community School Corporation
Attn: Greg Miller/Boomerang Backpacks
424 East South A Street
Gas City, IN 46933

Together, the community can help ensure that no student in need goes without food over the weekend.

Sincerely,

Greg Miller

Director of Child Nutrition