

# Beaverton Schools Backpack Program

## **OUR PASSION.**

We would like to share with you a program that is near and dear to our hearts. Several years ago, we implemented a “Backpack” program to benefit the elementary age students in our community who may not be getting nutritious, regular meals on the weekends. Beaverton Schools’ students receive free breakfast and lunch through government programs Monday through Friday when they are in school.... But what about Saturday and Sunday?

## **HOW IT WORKS.**

Regional food banks, just like the ones who deliver to local churches and other support groups for those in need in the adult community, are willing to accept orders for nonperishable food that can be sent home with students for the weekend. We can have access to nutritious food at a discounted cost, and provide breakfasts, lunches, and snacks for the students in our K-5<sup>th</sup> grades for the weekends throughout the school year. We already have local student groups, like the National Junior Honor Society, ready to help pack the backpacks.

## **WHY WE ARE COMMITTED.**

Think about the last time you missed a meal. When you are ‘hungry,’ can you concentrate on math, reading comprehension, science? Studies show that students who do not receive proper nutrition at home can take two days of regular meals once they are back from the weekend to attain the nutrient levels they need to be able to concentrate and process their schoolwork. That makes Mondays and Tuesdays a challenge for everyone involved. This isn’t the only concern there is to this grave, eye-opening situation, but it is certainly a valid one. These students are your neighbors, the kids at the park down the street, the kids who cannot speak for themselves.

## **HOW YOU CAN HELP.**

As our school system struggles to make its own budget, you can imagine the plight of finding funding for this type of program. Yet we feel strongly enough to commit to being able to feed 48 Beaverton Schools K-5<sup>th</sup> grade students every weekend starting in October. We have held fundraisers amongst our own staff and have received donations from our corporate offices. These have not met our total need, though. It only costs \$100 to feed one student every weekend for the entire school year. That’s \$4800 for 48 students who can really use this help. How many students are you willing to sponsor? One? Two? Five? We are reaching out to this great Beaverton Community because we have seen the generosity this town offers throughout our own lifetimes of living here. We would like to challenge you even further to secure the longevity of this program and commit to sponsoring students for the next five years, if possible. Please take this step in helping the youth of our community. We are happy to say we are partnering with the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan out of Flint for this exciting endeavor! You can make out your donation checks directly to them, but please send them to us for tracking purposes, and we will forward it to them. Once again, thank you for your support in this!

Thank you for your time!

Lacie Curns,  
Director of Dining Services  
Beaverton Schools  
3090 Crockett Road  
Beaverton, Michigan 48612  
(989) 246-3378