

Food For Kids Backpack Program

Organization Info:

Name of Organization: Food For Kids Backpack Program

Website: <http://www.foodforkidsbackpackprogram.com>

Address: 902 Roslyn Street, Denver, CO.80230

Mission Statement:

Our Mission is to change lives by providing nutritious food to food-insecure children and their families over the weekends. We hope to help all children in need attending school within the Denver Public School system. We believe children should worry about tether ball and academics and not where their next meal is coming from.

Contact Person for Questions:

Megan Martelon: Email: foodforkidsbackpackprogramdenver@yahoo.com;

Phone: 303-913-7097

Please check the most appropriate issue dealt with by your organization:

Children Elderly Hunger/Homelessness Disaster Relief Animal Welfare
 Health/Wellness Environment Human Rights Families Soldiers/Supporting Troops

About Your Issue Area:

What is the deeper issue behind your organization?

By providing meals for children need, children are able to come to school ready to learn. Attendance improves and academics approve.

What programs or services does your organization offer?

Each week, the Food For Kids Backpack program provides a rolling backpack filled with shelf staples as well as fresh, healthy food including items such as bread, oatmeal, peanut butter, jelly, tuna, macaroni and cheese, pasta and spaghetti sauce, fresh fruit, applesauce and loaves of bread, to children identified by their school's social worker as a child in need. The food is easy to open, as well as simple to prepare, to accommodate a variety of home circumstances. The backpacks are stuffed by children within each of the schools. One of our core beliefs is the promotion of philanthropy both in the school and the community. This requirement promotes the accountability of the school community and fosters the sustainability of the program. We provide service learning projects to students in schools, including having food drives and packing backpacks.

Do you have an interesting story about your organization or programs to share with the students?

At Lowry Elementary, if you are good at tetherball, you are a Rock Star. Sam was a Rock Star. Suddenly, his school social worker noticed he was losing at tetherball - a lot. She also noticed he was going home everyday with a very full backpack, but carrying

his books and coat in his arms. The social worker asked him what was in the backpack. He opened it up, and it was chock full of food like yogurt, muffins and cheese sticks from the cafeteria. It turns out he had made a deal with his friends at breakfast and lunch - they gave him their food, and he 'let' them win at tetherball. Losing his cool social status was a small sacrifice for not knowing where his next meal would come from. We want children to be able to focus on academics and the playground rather than where their next meal will come from.

How Can Students Help?

How can students help through specific, tangible cash grants?

For a family of four, \$20.00 will buy food for the weekend.

One Roller backpack costs between \$20.00-\$25.00.

How can students help through service grants?

Students can purchase rolling backpacks or shelf stable food items. Students can have a food drive.

Do you provide volunteer opportunities for youth?

Students can either come to our warehouse and help put food in volunteers cars to take to their schools or they can help deliver food. They can also come to a participating school and help stuff backpacks.