



# The Backpack Project

There are children in America who rely on resources such as free or reduced-priced school lunch, during the school year. When these children go home on Friday afternoons, many of them leave behind the free meals provided at school and return after the weekend with empty stomachs. Studies show that a clear relationship exists between child hunger and adverse physical & mental health outcomes.

The Backpack Program concept was first developed at the Arkansas Rice Depot after a school nurse asked for help because hungry students were coming to her with stomachaches and dizziness. The local food bank began to provide the school children with groceries in non-descript backpacks to carry home.

Now, these Backpack Programs serve more than 90,000 children each year, and we at First Church, in partnership with Foodshare and other local churches, will be providing backpacks filled with 11 pounds of non-perishable food to 50 Bloomfield children in need every week throughout the school year.



- ♦ Backpacks are filled with child-friendly, nonperishable, and vitamin fortified food that children take home on weekends
- ♦ Backpacks are discreetly distributed to children on the last day before the weekend or holiday vacation

According to the US Census, in 1999, there were almost 350 families below poverty level in Bloomfield alone.

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***Do you want to help give a child in need a boost with healthful food during the times that other resources are not available?***

Just like in previous years, the money raised by the church school class sales, children's offering, and special gifts from congregation members will all go towards the Backpack Project. ***Just \$150 will fill a child's backpack for an entire year.***

**We invite you to consider giving any amount of money in honor or in memory of a loved one.** Giving a donation as a gift is a meaningful way to honor your friends and family. Donations make wonderful gifts for teachers!

To help, please make your check payable to "First Church of Christ", drop off or mail to:  
**Rev. Kate VanDerzee-Glidden, First Church of Christ, Congregational,  
2183 Main St., Glastonbury, CT 06033**

Please include the following information with your donation: Your name; address; phone and/or email and the name of the person you are giving in honor or memory of. ***Thank you for your continued support!***