

THE BACKPACK FOOD PROGRAM

*Ending hunger
locally... one child at
a time*

1 in 3
students in ISP 277
are enrolled
in Free and Reduced
Lunch

11.5%
of children in
Blue Earth County are living
at or below the Federal
poverty line



About the Program

The goal of the Backpack Food Program is to ensure that children who live in food-insecure households are eligible to receive child-friendly, nutritious food in their backpacks prior to weekends and school breaks. This is done in a way that is discreet and confidential so children will not be stigmatized by taking food home.

In 2008, nearly 1 out of 3 children in the Mankato Public School District received Free or Reduced Price Lunch (30%). We believe that the Backpack Food Program will help ensure a better opportunity for children to succeed at school and in every area of their life.

The program is starting with a pilot at Franklin Elementary in Mankato and includes kindergarten through third grade from March 5 through the end of the 2009-2010 school year.

The pilot program will be closely monitored and evaluated to learn what works well, what parents and children like or dislike about the program, and how it can be improved. FOCP will begin a second pilot phase to add fourth through sixth grade at Franklin Elementary in the fall of 2010. It is the intention of FOCP to seek funding and expand the Backpack Food Program to all Mankato/North Mankato grade

schools and eventually all Blue Earth County grade schools.



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Feeding Our Communities
Partners

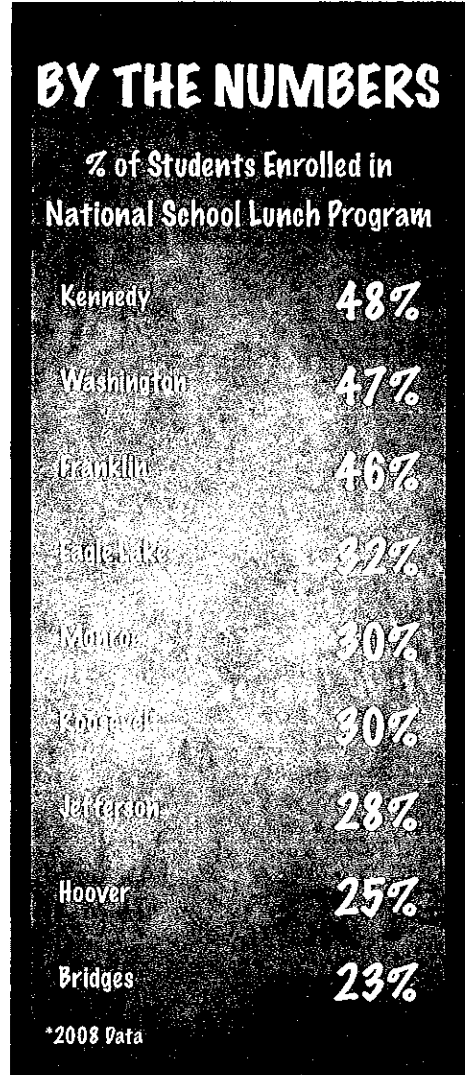
The members of Feeding Our Communities Partners envision a day when no resident of Blue Earth County must experience hunger. By building networks and opening communications, we can utilize and maximize our local food resources to make up for missing meals in Blue Earth County, in turn improving the health and self-reliance of our residents. We *advocate* for sustainable solutions to hunger, *demonstrate* the public value of an end to hunger, and *strive* to eliminate the stigma and apathy connected to hunger.

PHASE II	PHASE III	PHASE IV	PHASE V
September 2010	January 2011	September 2011	January 2012
<p>1. Initial Program</p> <p>2. Program Expansion</p> <p>3. Program Evaluation</p> <p>4. Program Refinement</p>	<p>1. Program Expansion</p> <p>2. Program Evaluation</p> <p>3. Program Refinement</p> <p>4. Program Refinement</p>	<p>1. Program Expansion</p> <p>2. Program Evaluation</p> <p>3. Program Refinement</p> <p>4. Program Refinement</p>	<p>1. Program Expansion</p> <p>2. Program Evaluation</p> <p>3. Program Refinement</p> <p>4. Program Refinement</p>

History

The Backpack Program concept was 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 nondescript backpacks to carry home.

The Backpack Program became a pilot program in 1995. The National Council of Feeding America approved the Backpack Program as an official national program in July 2006. More than 140 Feeding America members operated more than 3,600 Backpack Programs and served more than 190,000 children in FY2009.



Key Partners

- Arc of Minnesota Southwest
- Blue Earth County Government
- Centenary United Methodist Church
- Center for Rural Policy and Development
- Greater Mankato Area United Way
- HickoryTech
- ISD #77 Mankato Public Schools
- ISJ-Mayo Health System
- Mankato Clinic Nutrition Education
- Minnesota State University, Mankato

Sponsors

Greater Mankato Area
United Way



Immanuel St. Joseph's
Mayo Health System

MANKATO CLINIC
FOUNDATION
community education kindness

