

OUTREACH MINISTRY FOCUS ON HUNGER

Backpack Kids Continues Growth, Service

Polly Terman, Backpack Kids



With a Grateful Heart!

Our Backpack Kids Ministry is going strong! We have made and delivered 260 packs per month this year to our three schools (Parkwood, Einstein and Shorewood). Our ministry has been made possible by your financial gifts, the wonderful response to the Family Ministry food drive, and the loving and faithful service of Calvin volunteers! Because of you we are meeting the present need in our partner schools.

Occasionally a student will ask for his/her food bag before Friday because they are hungry at home. Not only is the food in these bags crucial to many of these kids, it is also clear to them, and the school staff, that we care about them. I am so thankful for God's continued leading and his provision through you as we travel this path!

Other blessings:

- This year, Doug's Cadillac is sending a team of packers for the evening pack each month! This is one way they give to their community. They even showed up and packed by flashlight during the big windstorm! If you are one of their customers, please make a point to thank them personally! (Our previous evening packers are now the very necessary cleanup crew!)
- This fall our church is one of the recipients of an Eagle Scout project food drive! The scout commented that he had a friend who received food packs and saw how much they meant to him.
- Thank you to Alison Neubauer whose Christmas party guests gifted food for the packs again this year.
- A homeschool group from last year returned and did the 2 pm packing in February.

- We have new faces among the regular volunteers. So grateful for the additional help! And of course the vital dedicated shoppers, setters and packers that have continued sacrificially to help each month. It would not happen without you. Thank you for being the "hands and feet of Jesus", tangible evidence of God's love! We are in our 9th year and most have been involved since near the beginning!
- Sande Gillette, Costco rebate shopper extraordinaire, Jim and Jenny Strock who have stepped up to make school deliveries when needed. Connie Graebner's students who make double bags for us to pack in and Benjie Parilla who faithfully gets out and arranges the tables and hauls in the food from all the storage closets and cubby holes EVERY packing day!

Sometimes people ask how they can give to this ministry. There is a special account for Backpack Kids funds. You should make funds payable to Calvin Church, but write Backpack Kids in the memo line. You can also give online through the Calvin website, www.calvinpc.org. These designated funds can only be used for foodpack supplies!

Another way you can give, painlessly, is to register your **Fred Meyer Rewards card**. Based on our combined spending, FM gives us a donation from their Community Reward Fund. We receive an average of \$100 per quarter from that fund. You retain all your own benefits and rewards. More information on the tall kiosk in the foyer and on the Fred Meyer website.

To maximize every penny, we buy in bulk when items go sale or rebate. Because of this, Calvin has had to find more storage for our supplies. Thank you to the staff and facilities team who have been so gracious about sharing their own spaces and even finding new spaces for us to store food supplies.

This year, using a new, separate, small "Benevolence Fund" for this same population, we have been able to provide some student

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bus tickets needed for other than school activities, hygiene packs and little “perk me up” bags for older students feeling discouraged and weighed down by their difficult lives on any given day (distributed by school staff as needed). Small items are packed by **Ruth Park** with a little chocolate and a note that says we care. **If you would like to contribute any gift card, or fun small item** (\$5 or under) that teenagers might like, it would be most welcome! We also hope to be able to provide a new pair of shoes or warm coat, etc., when needed.

Sometimes I am just overwhelmed by God's love and goodness and so THANKFUL to be with all of you as we discern and follow His plan!

Thank you for joining in this ministry! Thank you for praying for this Ministry! May God always be glorified in all that we do!

With a full and grateful heart,
Polly Terman