

Share's Backpack Program

There are 31,700+ children in Clark County who receive free and reduced-meals at our schools during the week. Many of these children are unsure whether they will have a meal on the weekends. Share has a solution to curbing that hunger—the Backpack Program. Currently, 1,850 bags of food each week are filled with non-perishable, easy-to-prepare food. The bags are then distributed to kids at 90 schools including elementary, middle and high schools, as well as EOCF Head Start programs. The bags are discretely given out each Friday for kids to take home on the weekends.

Added to those 1,850 packs are 13 sets of High School Pantry Boxes that help support 20+ kids per school. The high school boxes weigh about 22 lbs. each, for a total of 374 lbs. of food to high schools each week.

We try to include some of the following food in the bags and boxes each week:

- **Fruit:** canned fruit, fruit cups, applesauce cups, juice boxes, dried fruit
- **Canned vegetables**
- **Grains** (2 lb. pkg or smaller): pasts, rice, cereal, oatmeal
- **Dry beans**
- **Boxed dinners:** macaroni & cheese, pasta sides, ham-burger/tuna helper
- **Protein:** tuna, canned chicken, canned ham, other shelf-stable meats, peanut butter
- **Canned soup or beans**
- **Important food items for homeless students:** microwaveable meals, cup of soup, easy open tuna, trail mix, cereal, granola, protein bars, beef jerky, jelly, instant oatmeal, pudding cups, single serving items that are 'heat & eat'

* *Space in bags is limited so smaller items are preferred and allow us to pack more into each bag. As these are also being distributed to young children, we do not include any glass in the bags, so plastic jars and containers are preferred.*



Thanks for supporting this vital program to feed children at risk of hunger!



Questions? Hunger Response Assistant Director
(360) 952-8221, hungerresponse@sharevancouver.org