

WHAT IS THE BACK PACK FOR KIDS PROGRAM?

The **Backpack for Kids Program** is an emergency food assistance program designed especially for kids. Kids who are hungry receive non-perishable food for themselves and their younger siblings for an evening meal or for an entire weekend. School personnel put the food in a backpack for the student to carry home. The child avoids the stigma of carrying home a bag of groceries.

How Can I help?

- If your place of business orders food items by the case – order an extra case for ECHO’s backpacks – we’ll pick it up!
- Place our secure coin collection boxes by your check stands or cashier – we can pick these up on a regular basis.
- Designate a portion of kid’s meal, a dessert or other meal to help fund the backpack program on a regular basis.
- Hold a food or backpack drive

We gratefully acknowledge Backpack for Kids School Pantry Sponsors:

- San Juan United Way Donors
- SJC Business Law Students
 - BHP Billiton
- City of Farmington & SJ County
 - Chevron Production Co.
 - Deal Excavating
 - Evening Lions Club
 - Many Good Neighbors!

“Adopt a School” Sponsors:

- Animas Credit Union
- Bethany Christian Church
- BP America Production Co.
- Con Alma Health Foundation
 - Devon Energy
- First Presbyterian Church
- W. W. Grainger, Inc.
- WalMart Foundation



Back Pack for Kids Food Items Individually packaged

*Pudding cups * Milk in a box * Fruit Cups *Snack crackers * Peanut Butter *Cereal & milk bars *individual pasta & entrée cups *plastic spoons *V-8 Fusion juice boxes

Find out how you can help, please contact:

ECHO, Inc. Food Bank

401 S. Commercial
Farmington, New Mexico 87401
Phone (505) 325-8222
Fax (505) 324-6502
www.echoinc.org



2015-2016 School Year

No Child Should Go Hungry. EVER.

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

- Nutritional deficiencies of a even a relatively short-term nature influence children's behavior, ability to concentrate and to perform complex tasks (Center for Disease Control & Prevention 2012).
- Everyday in New Mexico 22 Babies are born into poverty (NMACF).
- As the number of families receiving food stamps decreases, the number of families accessing New Mexico's Food Bank network is increasing (New Mexico Human Resources Department 12/2011). New Mexico ranks 12th in the nation in food insecurity.

- Over half (**80%**) of New Mexico's Students are eligible to receive free or reduced lunches. This is almost twice the National Average of 30.9% (Food, Research and Action Center, 2014).
- The overall rate of poverty in New Mexico – 22%
- The rate of poverty among children under age 18 in New Mexico is 31% while the national average is 20.8% (FRAC 2013).

The most
important school
supply . . . **Food**

- Last year the community helped us provide 5,388 backpacks in 20 Aztec, Bloomfield, Blanco, Farmington & Newcomb elementary schools. A grant through the ConAlma Health Foundation has provided backpacks for the Chama Valley Schools.
- There are no out of pocket costs to the schools or to the children.



Please Support
Back Pack for Kids

A KID-FRIENDLY

SCHOOL BASED

FOOD PANTRY

PROGRAM