

# Backpack Program



support to the Backpack Program by sorting, shelving, and distributing donated food.

## Other Ways to Help

- Become a part of the team that packs and delivers backpacks throughout the school year. If your group is interested in a particular participating school, you may be interested in assisting on a particular week.
- If you have the space, you may be interested in becoming a Packing Site throughout the school year.

## For More Information:

Please contact Amanda Freeland at [afreeland@catawbacountync.gov](mailto:afreeland@catawbacountync.gov) or (828) 695-5648 to get started.

## Visit Our Website:

<http://www.catawbacountync.gov/dss/backpack>

You can now donate online. Just click on the red “Donate Now” button.



Join Our Facebook Group:  
“I Love The Backpack Program”

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/172875949421371>

## Free Interpretation Services

If you do not speak English, or if you are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf/blind, you can have interpretation services provided for you at no charge. Tell the person helping you that you need an interpreter.

### Hmong

Yog hais tias koj hais tsis tau lus Askiv, los sis koj yog tibneeg lag ntseg, los yog tibneeg dig muag, peb muaj neeg pes lus dawb pub rau koj. Hais qhia rau tus tibneeg uas koj ntsib ntawd kom nws nrhiav neeg pab pes lus rau koj.

### Spanish

Si Ud. no habla inglés, o si es sordo, tiene dificultad para oír, o es sordo/ciego, se le podrán proporcionar servicios de interpretación sin costo.

Dígale a la persona que le esté ayudando que necesita un intérprete.



**CATAWBA COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES**  
3030 11th Ave DR SE • Hickory, NC 28602  
(828) 695-5600 • [www.catawbacountync.gov/dss](http://www.catawbacountync.gov/dss)



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## THE BACKPACK PROGRAM



# The Backpack Program

Helping Feed Local Children



Providing nourishment to students in  
Catawba County who are hungry on the weekends



# The Backpack Program

## Our Mission:

To provide weekend nourishment to students in Catawba County who are hungry on the weekends. The program provides each child with dinners, lunches, breakfasts, and snacks each weekend throughout the school year.

## How the Backpack Program Works

The Backpack Program works with schools throughout the county to provide children with a backpack filled with food every Friday throughout the school year. The program seeks to assist children who participate in the Federal Free and Reduced Meal Program or families who are in a situation that their finances force them to choose between food and other expenses and therefore struggle with hunger.

Parents apply for the program through their child's school counselor.

Local churches and businesses serve as the sites that pack the bags each week and deliver them to the schools. ECCCCM provides purchasing power through partner food suppliers, truck transportation, and warehouse space. The program is 100% funded by donations received by individuals, churches, and businesses. Without community partners, this program would not exist.

## Ways to Help

### Raise Money

The Backpack Program relies on financial donations for basic operating costs, i.e. food purchase and food storage items.

\$100 sponsors a child to receive a backpack every weekend for an entire school year!

### Coordinate a Benefit Event

Contact us for suggestions, or create your own event.

### Donate by check, or online

All checks should be made payable to: Catawba County DSS and be mailed to PO BOX 669 Newton, NC 28658. Be sure to write "Backpack Program" in the memo line of your check.

To donate online, go to <http://www.catawbacountync.gov/dss/backpack> and click on the red "Donate Now" button.

All donors who provide contact information will receive a letter of acknowledgement and tax receipt for their donation.

### Raise Food

Community food drives are an excellent source of quality food to be used in the backpacks.

Keeping food barrels in your location reminds people to support the drive. Even if your primary goal is raising money, giving food makes many people feel more connected to the mission to feed hungry children.

### What foods meet guidelines for donation?

The Shopping List Flyer contains our most needed food items. Find it on our website at: <http://www.catawbacountync.gov/dss/backpack>, or contact us to receive a copy.

### Some general guidelines:

- Only donate items that you would eat.
- Check that items are still within their "Use before" date.
- No glass items, they break easily in the backpacks and can become very dangerous.
- We can only accept unopened items. We can accept opened packages if the internal packaging is still intact. (For example, oatmeal sold in boxes but wrapped in individual sized packets)

### Volunteer

Volunteering for the Backpack Program is a great way to become partners in the fight against childhood hunger in Catawba County. Drives that include volunteerism are much more successful. Volunteers provide critical