



3-11-2014

NHS Invites the CCS Student Body to join them in Backpack Buddies

BackPack Buddies is a program that provides children from food-insecure homes with weekend meals during the school year. The children, selected by school principals, guidance counselors, and supervisors of various after school programs, receive a backpack containing six balanced meals and two healthy snacks at the end of every week. Local corporations, civic groups, and individuals help collect and pack bags with kid-friendly non-perishable food.

Amazing facts...

- In **North Carolina**, one out of five children under the age of 18 is considered "food insecure," meaning they do not get enough food to lead a healthy, active life.
- According to NC Child (formerly Action for Children North Carolina) statistics from 2011-12, 95.2% of **Vance County** students in public schools qualify for the free-lunch program.

Students on free-lunch programs have been heard to say they don't eat on weekends or there's not enough food in their homes to feed everyone in their families. While we can wonder how this can be going on in our country and question the reasons these children aren't being fed at home, the fact remains that children go hungry right here in our local community.

How We Became Involved...

The National Honor Society chapter at Crossroads was approached by someone with a heart for these children and asked if we would like to help. In November 2013, we started our Backpack Buddies program with a single private donor and 10 children at Zeb Vance Elementary. We would like this project to become a schoolwide project under the sponsorship of our NHS, one that all of our classes can participate in without competitions or prizes as the reason to help. We are hopeful that our students will support this cause because it is a way to show Christ's love to others who are not part of our school. The guidance counselor at Zeb Vance has repeatedly said she was just surprised we wanted to help and that the children were so excited each Friday when they picked up their backpacks.

The members of the NHS have posted flyers of the types of food we are asking each class to donate on a monthly basis outside the classroom doors. All items must be easy for a child to open, so "pop-top" or "peel-off" tops on cans and cups are needed.

This donation is entirely voluntary. We are not sponsoring a competition that will encourage peer pressure of any sort. Help if you choose to. Donations do not have to be large. For example, suppose each week you buy a six-pack of applesauce for your child's lunch. You could simply donate the sixth cup of applesauce since there are five days to the week. For some, a monetary donation may be easier and we will do the shopping for items. Whatever you feel you can do will be appreciated!

We will also be stockpiling for the month of school that Zeb Vance will have after we finish our school year, too, so we are planning ahead for those weekends now.

We appreciate all support and intend for this to be an ongoing project for future years. Thank you in advance for your donations!

A few examples of our food items:

