



Serving children in our Bellevue schools

BACKPACK MEALS FOR KIDS

BECAUSE CHILDREN SHOULDN'T GO HUNGRY ON THE WEEKENDS

Annual Report *for* 2017-2018

Academic Year 2017-18 brought another burst of growth for Backpack Meals for Kids. In just one year, the number of weekend food packs increased 28 percent – from 9,501 to 12,109. Soaring demand underscored the need for BPM's unique mission: filling the weekend hunger gap so that students are equipped to learn and succeed.

Kids, families and schools love BPM

In its seventh full year of operation kids and families continued to share their enthusiasm for the program. Year-end evaluations found satisfaction ratings ranging 96-99 percent. Kids wrote heartwarming thanks:

“Thank you so much for giving us food so we don't stay hungry. You guys are amazing and so kind.”

“Thank you for donating food for us. I feel happy and appreciate what you do for my family.”

“Thanx a lot. It tastes grat! I love it so much. Your very nise. So kind. Your the best!”

School staff also wrote to share their positive assessment of BPM:

From Highland: *“This program has greatly helped our students and families with sustenance, but also with connectedness. Students feel loved and appreciated when getting their food for the weekend.”*

From Tyee: *I love the Backpack Meals program for many reasons. The most obvious is knowing that the kids are going home with the food they need for the weekend. They are so happy and it is wonderful to see. The program is also very easy for me and the kids to manage and maintain.”*

From Tillicum: *“We receive emails from parents who are so grateful for the food. You are a wonderful support to our school and we are so thankful.”*

Volunteers make it work

Since its beginning in 2011, BPM has operated as an all-volunteer, community-based organization. Donors can be assured that their donations go to buy food for hungry kids.

In 2017-18 volunteers contributed well over a thousand hours to preparing and distributing food, outreach and fund-raising, planning and promoting and administering the program.



Volunteers represent all ages and backgrounds. Community Scouts spent an evening packing food for BPM. Pictured is



Thanks to a generous community

Community support from volunteers and donors made this year's dramatic growth possible. New donors stepped forward while long-time donors continued their generous support. Again this year BPM received significant support from local churches, individual donors, families, organizations, food drives and fund raising efforts sponsored by Overlake Hospital, Samena Club preschoolers and Cherry Crest fifth graders, among others. Special gifts included:

- *Herz-ner Tamid* congregation -- \$3,000 to support BPM's summer program focusing on homeless students.
- *Bellevue Sunrise Rotary* – an annual gift of \$2,500.
- *Bellevue Downtown Rotary* – new \$5,000 grant.
- *Windermere Foundation* -- \$10,000 grant for the fifth straight year.
- *Muslim Community Resource Center* – \$2,500 cash and in-kind donations to end childhood hunger.

The BPM Board honors its volunteers every summer with a casual picnic dinner.

Increasing budget needs

Program growth continued to place a strain on the organization's all-volunteer resources. Accelerated fund-raising will be a priority in 2018-19, along with enhanced outreach and recruitment of new board members and volunteers.

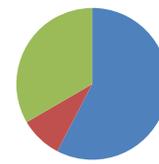
Year-end financial

\$109,311 Expenses (cash out)
88,871 Cash income
[\$20,440] 2017-18 cash deficit

Total donations

\$88,817 cash donations
2,000 in-kind donations
\$90,817 Total donations

Cash Donations



■ Businesses
■ Faith
■ Individual

2018-19 Projection

\$115,672 Cash requirement
41,871 Cash on hand (from previous years)
\$73,801 Cash needed to maintain level of service

Backpack Meals for Kids is a community-based, all-volunteer, non-profit organization. We welcome and appreciate your interest in sharing your resources as a donor or as volunteer. Contact us at jdstars@gmail.com, see our website www.backpackmeals.org, and like us on Facebook.