

How can I help?

- Gifts of **cash** 

Make checks payable to

Weekend Meal Deal

- **Grant Funds** totaling \$14,000 are needed this year



- Just \$6.00 per week provides healthy food for a child in need

- **Volunteer** to pack backpacks

- Hold a **food drive** to donate to the Weekend Meal Deal Program



Proud Sponsors of The WEEKEND MEAL DEAL program

United Way of Miami Co. 

Miami Co. Community Foundation 

Miami County Helping Hands, Inc. 

Garden Gate Greenhouse, Inc.
765-473-4992

Peru Community Schools 

Independent Christian Fellowship Church

Main Street Methodist Church
Mission Group

CONTACT INFORMATION

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United Way of Miami Co.
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Providing
FOOD
for
Thought

Impact of *Hunger* on Local Children

Over the last few years, the poor economy has resulted in one in every eight (8) Americans needing food assistance. In Peru, that statistic is one (1) in seven (7). In the *South Peru* school system, sixty-six percent (66%) of the students qualify for the reduced or free lunch program. This new program is specifically aimed at students who are experiencing critical periods of growth and development. Research conducted by the Center on Hunger and Poverty at Brandeis University indicates that even mild under nutrition may lead to reductions in physical growth and impaired brain function. It is widely reported that children who experience hunger have higher levels of chronic illness, anxiety, depression, and behavioral problems.

The PROBLEM

The lack of adequate nutrition we are seeing in elementary school-aged children today not only affects their physical growth, but also hurts and slows cognitive and behavioral development of children. Children from food insecure, low-income households are more likely to experience irritability, fatigue, and difficulty concentrating compared to other children, which can make performing in school very difficult.



The SOLUTION

The Weekend Meal Deal program is designed to meet the needs of hungry children at times when other resources are not available, especially on weekends. Headstart students are sent home every Friday with a backpack full of nutritious, child-friendly food. "You can personally adopt a child for \$6.00 per week or \$192.00 per year."



The CONCEPT

Backpacks are filled with up to ten (10) pounds of food that children take home on weekends.

Packing Partners fill the backpacks each week.

Food is child-friendly, non-perishable, easily consumed and vitamin fortified.

Backpacks are discreetly distributed to children on the last day before a weekend.



BackPack® Facts

With family budgets stretched to the max these days, backpack food is often the bridge between Friday and Monday for some children.

Food Finders BackPack® Program

began in 2006 with a grant from Alco Foundation, serving the children at Vinton and Miller Elementary Schools in Tippecanoe County.



The BackPack® program currently serves over 2,400 children in eleven (11) counties across mid-north Indiana.

More than 58,000 backpacks were distributed in the 2009-2010 school year, producing over 425,000 pounds of food directly to families in need.

**We NEED
organizations
&
companies to support
our program!**

See back for contact information