

Date here

Dear Donation Committee,

The Backpack Buddies Food Program is a new program to our area, but it is being implemented throughout the United States. A Texas teacher realized that many of her students were not doing well in school because of hunger. Although many of the students qualified for free or reduced breakfasts and lunches, kids were going home on the weekends receiving few meals at home. Because of this one teacher, many similar volunteer programs are underway in nearly a dozen states, feeding thousands of children each week. Here in our own community, **your town**, we have the same problem.

In conjunction with support from **your partners**, we have spearheaded a Backpack Buddies Program at **your school** in your town. **Your school**, has **XX** students who receive free or reduced lunches. That is **XX%** of your school students who potentially go home on the weekends and have no food prepared for them. We need your help. Along with **your partners** we would like to STOP the HUNGER for these children!

The purpose of the Backpack Buddies is to provide food over the weekends to elementary students who qualify for free or reduced lunch during the week. We began our program with letters being sent home to **XX** families requesting their permission to send home a food bag with their children each Friday during this school year. One family declined and in the third week of November we were able to begin the program by providing **XX** students with weekend meals. Currently, we are sponsoring **XX** students each week. **Your Partners** generosity in giving has been greatly appreciated. We wouldn't have been able to start the program when we did without their generous donations of food and money. However, to continue providing for these **XX** students and increase to serving all of the 140 kids in need, we need **Store/Organization** community support. As of now, our program's only expense is supplying the food and plastic bags. All other support from doing the shopping, to bagging and distributing the food is provided by grass roots volunteers. As we receive more money and food, we'll be able to increase the number of hungry kids that we are able to serve. Supplying our program with a food donation can help immensely. The following is a typical backpack meal:

A typical backpack meal:

entrée w/ protein chili, chicken noodle, beef-a-roni or ravioli (Chef Boyardee like)

fruit fruit cups: applesauce, fruit cocktail, peaches, etc.

juice juice box-100% juice only

snack packages of cheese & crackers or peanut butter & crackers

granola or snack bars

After the food has been purchased and/or collected, a **Your Volunteer Group** and members

from the churches help sort and assemble the food bags. Two lunches are packaged into plastic bags and then delivered to the school on Friday mornings. While the students are at recess, aides put the bags of food into the child's backpack. This will allow for the continued anonymity with the child.

Currently, our **Partners** made the commitment to provide **XX** lunches for each of the **XX** students being sponsored in the program during spring break vacation. That's **XXX** lunches compared to the **XX** that we normally provide each week. I am quite excited to share that our churches accomplished this goal and on the Date of Month those lunches will be distributed to the parents from **Location**. Because of the real and persistent needs of these children, this program has become near and dear to our hearts. Any support that Costco can provide by either donating food or providing for our ability to purchase food at reduced costs would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Your Name Here

Backpack Buddies