

How You Can Help

Sponsor a Site

While schools are the traditional place for distribution, Backpack food can also be distributed through other organizations such as care programs. If you think your site would be a great place to distribute Backpacks, please contact us at 800-809-4752.



**\$15 provides Backpack food for
1 child for 1 month**

Donate

MFBN is a non-profit organization, and always welcomes donations and financial sponsors. If you would like to help with core operation and food purchasing costs for the Backpack Program please contact us at 1-800-809-4752 or donate online at www.mfbn.org

About the Montana Food Bank Network

The mission of the Montana Food Bank Network (MFBN) is to end hunger in Montana through food acquisition and distribution, education and advocacy.

MFBN is a 501(c)3 organization located in Missoula, MT. In addition to administering the Backpack Program, MFBN distributes food to nearly 200 charitable programs across Montana that serve those in need.

Montana Food Bank Network

5625 Expressway

Missoula, MT 59808

406.721.3825 or 800.809.4752

www.mfbn.org



A member of
**FEEDING
AMERICA**



Working to end child hunger in Montana



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BackPack Program Mission

The mission of the Backpack Program is to meet the needs of hungry children by providing them with nutritious and easy-to-prepare food to take home on weekends and school vacations when other resources are not available.

Program Objectives

- Provide nutritious food for hungry children on weekends and holidays when they are away from the school breakfast and lunch programs they depend upon.
- Distribute food discreetly in easily accessible and safe environments.
- Involve additional resources and partners in order to assure sustainability of the program.



The Backpack Program Reduces Child Hunger in Montana

In 2008 Montana Food Bank Network's first Backpack Program was started in DeSmet School in Missoula. The program has expanded to 60 sites across Montana and continues to feed hungry Montana children through local collaborations.

The child poverty rate in Montana is 20.3% (Source: U.S. Census American Community Survey 2012) and the child food insecurity rate in Montana is 21.8% (Source: Feeding America).

One in five Montana children lives in poverty. It is not uncommon for low-income parents to skip meals so there will be enough food to feed their children. When children are also skipping meals, this is an indication of a severe hunger problem. A survey of food pantry clients across Montana showed that 16% of children had skipped meals.

Reducing childhood hunger results in:

- Reducing likelihood of grade repetition, tardiness, anxiety, aggression, and behavior problems in class.
- Improving motor skills, ability for memory, and social interaction.
- Improving math and reading scores.
- Improving physical and cognitive development.



“They give me more food to eat because usually we don’t have any money.”

–4th Grader
Franklin Elementary School
Missoula, MT