

Root FOR OUR COMMUNITY

2/5/16



A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE BACKPACK PROGRAM

The mission of the Backpack Program is to meet the needs of students that are struggling with hunger outside of the classroom by providing them with nutritious and easy to prepare food to take home over weekends and extended school breaks when other resources are not available to them. A total of 91 schools in 39 cities in Montana participate in the Montana Food Bank Network's Backpack Program. Statewide over 100,000 bags are provided to almost 4,000 unduplicated students annually. Backpack bags cost \$4 per student per week.

SO WHAT IS 406 Backpack Jersey Day?

The goal of the 406 Backpack Jersey Day is to increase awareness about the program in each school and city as well as raise additional funds to help support the program. With additional funds, coordinators are able to supplement bags with additional needs such as fresh produce, toiletry items, much needed school supplies, and community resource information to further aid students and their families.

We are engaging all these communities around Montana to join in on February 5, the Friday preceding the National Football Super Bowl, and show their support for the children and schools in Montana. Make a \$5 suggested donation to the participating school at mfbn.org/backpackjerseyday and then wear your favorite sporting teams jersey or t-shirt on February 5. All proceeds will go to the donors chosen school to fund the Backpack Program.

HOW YOU HELP YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Every community has a number of resources to help spread the word about this program but we can always use more! What can you do to help? We are glad you asked!

- Engage your company, church group, book club, sewing circle, yoga class and any other community groups that you know are passionate about the youth in your area. Invite them to join you by making a donation and showing your support on Feb. 5th

- Contact the program coordinator at MFBN, Stephanie Stratton at 406-215-1772 to be connected you with local community members that are championing the program in your area.

- Like Montana Food Bank Network on Facebook, share our posts, and post your own photos on or before 2/5 using

#406BackPack