

OUR HISTORY

Boomerang Backpacks was founded in March 2008 in Kendallville, Indiana under the guidance of current Board President, Mark Cockroft. (Fun Fact: Current Executive Director, Kyrie Hernandezpeterson, was a senior in Mr. Cockroft's class then!) The organization has a simple goal: to feed hungry children on weekends during the school year. Boomerang Backpacks was initially started in one elementary school. Today, we feed over 3,600 students in 40 schools in 9 different counties throughout Northeast Indiana.

MISSION

To provide weekend nourishment to elementary students struggling with food insecurities while educating others about service projects and philanthropy.



BOOMERANG BACKPACKS

had an almost **7%** increase in need during the last school year. This year, we added a new county (Wabash), which will further increase the need for our services, making every donation that much more important.

THANK YOU!



The food is great. Thanks
for all the food you are
really helpful I like to
eat it on Saturday. My
favourite thing is the best stick

CONTACT

Boomerang Backpacks

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Mark Cockroft, Board President

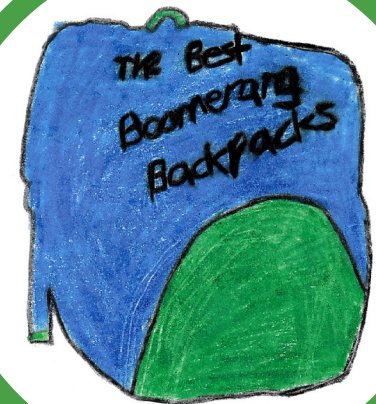
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Helping to fight
childhood hunger one
BOOMERANG BACKPACK
at a time!



While most of us never have to worry about where our next meal will come from, there are many families in our local communities who do. For some of the children in our region, the only real meals they receive regularly are from their school lunches. The question becomes, "Where do these students get their meals on the weekends?"

This is where Boomerang Backpacks steps in!

Our program helps fill the gap between Friday and Monday by sending students home with at least two breakfast items and one protein-rich meal on Fridays during the school year. Boomerang Backpacks is a self-eject program available to any elementary students in participating schools who wish to apply.

With only one paid, part-time employee, Boomerang Backpacks operates almost completely on the service of our approximately 175 volunteers! Even our office space has been donated by Fort Wayne Storage. In addition, many volunteers are high school students helping to serve and meet the needs of younger children in their school systems. This is a grassroots, community-driven program dependent on donations from foundations, corporations, community organizations, and generous individuals, like you!

COMMUNITIES WE SERVE

Allen: 826	Dekalb: 429
Grant: 64	Kosciusko: 982
LaGrange: 217	Noble: 325
Steuben: 375	Whitley: 456

And added during the 2024-2025 school year - Wabash: 300+ estimated!



WAYS TO SUPPORT BOOMERANG BACKPACKS

MONETARY

It costs approximately \$110 per school year to feed one child (30 weekends). For just thirty-one cents per day, you can feed a child in your community for an entire school year! The donation process is easy, and we respect your wishes about how to designate your gift. Just visit our website to make a secure donation online or mail us a check to the address on the back. Please designate the school you would like your contribution to benefit or send an unrestricted gift to help the school with the greatest need.

VOLUNTEER

Because Boomerang Backpacks relies heavily on volunteers, we always need teachers, students, administrators, farmers, community leaders, businesses, and individuals willing to lend a hand. Volunteers help with purchasing food, packing bags, orchestrating delivery to students, and fund-raising events. Contact our Executive Director (or your local coordinator) today to learn more about volunteer opportunities!

CORPORATIONS & BUSINESSES

Looking for unique ways to support this local non-profit?

- Employee match donations are a wonderful way for employees and employers to support Boomerang Backpacks. An employee that donates \$10 per pay period (biweekly) with a \$10 match would equate to a donation of \$520 per year, providing weekend food for almost 5 students for an entire school year!
- Businesses can also purchase a month's supply of food (or donate the money for us to buy the food) for the participating school of their choice, they can volunteer to pack the bags, or they can simply organize a packing day and Boomerang Backpacks can supply the food. Smaller food donations can be used as supplemental items in the weekly bags. If interested, contact Executive Director, Kyrie Hernandezpeterson, for more information.

