

BOOMERANG BACKPACKS HISTORY

Boomerang Backpacks is a program that was started in March 2008 in Kendallville, Indiana under the guidance of our founder, Mark Cockroft. The program has a simple goal: feed hungry children on the weekends. The program started initially in one elementary school and today, we feed over 3700 students in 49 schools throughout Northeast Indiana.

MISSION

Boomerang Backpacks feeds hungry youth while educating high school students and encouraging community involvement. Our grassroots program is successful because of three key principles: feeding kids, service-learning for teens and teaching kids about philanthropy.



CONTACT

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BoomerangBackpacks.org



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



The Boomerang Backpacks program is a weekend food distribution program that provides students typically enrolled in free or reduced lunch programs with a backpack of healthy foods for the weekend.

We strive to nourish low-income elementary students on weekends by providing free bags full of food and to inspire high school students to experience community service through project-based learning and student internships.

We work to feed hungry children, provide community service opportunities for teens, and provide work-based learning experiences for functional skills and special needs children.

We address the needs of children living at or near poverty levels, children who haven't experienced success in traditional school environments, and low-functioning kids enrolled in special needs life skills programs.



ABOUT BOOMERANG BACKPACKS

Boomerang Backpacks uses over 80% of the donations collected by local schools to purchase food. The money that is raised in a school district will stay in that school if directed by the donor. Furthermore, funds raised in each county (i.e. DeKalb, Steuben, Allen, Noble, Whitley and Kosciusko, and Grant) will stay in each county. Somewhere over 50% to 60% of grade school children are on the free and reduced lunch programs in our schools. We usually fill backpacks on Thursdays, deliver them to the schools on Fridays and then students can count on bags going home for the weekend during the school year.

VOLUNTEERS

This is a volunteer-driven program. Community and school volunteers purchase the food, pack the bags and orchestrate delivery to students working with student volunteers. Our volunteers include teachers, students, administrators, farmers, community leaders, businesses, and individuals. Learn more about volunteering in your community today!

IMPACT

We can feed one child for 30 weekends during the school year for approximately \$100 per year. If you gave up one 20 ounce pop at \$2 per week for a year, you could feed a child!

DONATE

Our donation process is easy and we respect your wishes about how to designate your gift. Visit our website to make a secure donation online or mail a donation to the address on the back and let us know which school you would like for the contribution to benefit. Unrestricted contributions will be used where programs need the most help.

