



November 28, 2017

Dear Friend of the Portage Backpack Program,

Thanks to donors over the last several years, the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana's Portage Backpack Program has grown from providing weekend meals to ten children in one Portage Township School to more than 200 children across all eleven Portage Township Schools.

Our Backpack to School Fundraiser last fall was extremely successful and raised over \$25,000. More importantly, it increased awareness regarding the struggle that many families in our community face as more than half of our Portage Township Schools students receive free or reduced school meals during the week. Many of these students do not have adequate food over the weekends.

The 2017-18 school year is off to a great start for the Portage Backpack Program. More students are being fed than ever with weekend bags of food. The Portage Backpack Program Steering Committee continues to focus on ways to improve both the content and the process of providing weekend meals. Every Portage Township Elementary School raised money to support the Portage Backpack Program through Coin Wars earlier this month, raising over \$10,000 for weekend meals.

Please help us continue to make a positive impact in our Portage community by supporting the Portage Backpack Program. It costs approximately \$200 to provide weekend meals for one child for the school year. We hope to raise an additional \$10,000 through the generous donations of friends like you by the end of 2017. We can reach this goal if either 50 people or organizations choose to sponsor one child for the year. Every donation benefits children, and as always, 100% of the money raised will go to feeding children in Portage Township Schools.

Online donations can be made at <https://foodbanknwi.org/donate-online/>. Checks, made out to Food Bank of NWI, can be mailed to Crisman Elementary School (Attn: Backpack Program, 6161 Old Porter Road, Portage, IN, 46368). Please make sure to specify the Portage Backpack Program in either the memo section of your check or in the comments section of the online donation form. Your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Thank you,

The Portage Backpack Program