



GUILFORD BACKPACK MINISTRY

www.OakRidgeUMC.org/Backpacks

SERVING NORTHERN & NORTHWEST AREA SCHOOLS SINCE 2010

1 in 4 students in our district are experiencing food insecurity. Guilford Backpack Ministry has worked since 2010 to help fight hunger for children in Northern and Northwest Guilford area schools. During the school year, we provide those in need with a bag of nutritious shelf stable foods for the weekend. We also supply additional food for school breaks, and special meals or treats for the holidays.

What is in the food bag?

Each week's menu consists of nutritious kid friendly non-perishable food for the weekend. Menus vary per week but typically include a protein such as canned meat or beans, pasta or rice, and canned vegetables, and breakfast items. Depending on the week, we also include canned fruit, peanut butter and jelly, snacks, and a treat.



How does it work?

Our program is confidential, and we go to great lengths to make sure that children are not stigmatized.

Summerfield Elementary, Stokesdale Elementary, Oak Ridge Elementary, and Northern Elementary students have a weekly bag of food slipped into their bookbags by their school counselor or social worker while the children are out of the classroom. We also give the child's teacher five individually wrapped snacks for snack time the following school week, such as granola bars, peanut butter crackers, cereal bars, and goldfish for students in the elementary schools we serve.

We have found that older students are especially nervous that friends may see them with food. To help with this, **Northern Middle and High, Northwest Middle and High, Greensboro Academy, Summerfield Charter, and Operation Xcel** students will receive their food once a month. The school counselor, social worker, or the Operation Xcel Program Director will contact parents to arrange a time for them to pick up the food. These students receive the same amount of food as our elementary students.

How can I get help?

If you need our help, contact your school counselor, social worker, or Daphney Shoaff at Operation Xcel for an application.



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Guilford Backpack Ministry is a **100% volunteer organization** that helps fight food insecurity for children in Northern and Northwest Guilford County area schools. Because we are volunteer run, 99% of financial donations go directly for food and the remaining 1% for supplies.

Families in our area have limited access to food pantries and feeding centers because most programs are in more densely populated areas and transportation and time can be an issue. We provide all food insecure students enlisted in our program with supplemental shelf stable food for the weekend. Without this food, many of these students would return to school hungry.

"Your program has made a real difference in our school. Multiple times this year we have seen an increase in attendance and engagement in class after enrolling students. The parents have become more involved in the community and the children are thriving." -School Social Worker

An average of 15% of the students in schools we serve are classified as "Economically Disadvantaged" per NC School Report Card in pre-COVID times, and that number has only increased in recent years.

We typically serve 250+ students a year at:

Northern Middle & High
Northwest Middle & High
Northern Elementary
Oak Ridge Elementary
Stokesdale Elementary
Summerfield Elementary
Greensboro Academy
Summerfield Charter
Operation Xcel

What does a student receive?

- Each week's menu varies and includes two meals. A typical menu has meat or beans, pasta or rice, and canned vegetables. We also include canned fruit, breakfast foods, peanut butter, jelly, and snacks.
- Elementary Schools receive snacks for the students during the school day.
- We also supply holiday meals and food for over the school breaks and holidays.
- Depending on the donations that we receive, we also give out special treats and school supplies.
- Elementary schools receive bags weekly and Middle, High and Charter Schools receive bags monthly.

If you or someone you know needs our help, please contact your school counselor or social worker.

Want to help or have questions? Contact us at GuilfordBackpackMinistry@gmail.com

Located at Oak Ridge United Methodist Church, 2424 Oak Ridge Road