



Why become a WEEKENDER Backpack buddy

39 percent of Berks County students qualify for free and reduced lunches - that's more than **27,000 children**. Their families rely on these lunches to keep their children nourished and healthy during the week.

The Greater Berks Food Bank's Weekender Backpack Program

was created to meet the needs of the hungry children at times when other resources are not available, such as weekends and school vacations. Good nutrition over the weekends helps children return to school on Monday morning feeling good and ready to learn instead of sick and weak. This program, along with our **Kids Cafe Program**, helps to end the cycle of dependence and gives these students a chance at a brighter future.



The Greater Berks Food Bank currently distributes about 700 backpacks a week at elementary schools located throughout Berks County, reflecting the fact that hunger is a problem that touches children in all communities.

However, there are a lot more children we could be helping with your support.

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U.S. Postage
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Reading, PA
Permit No. 14

"It helps out a lot. When my mom can't buy groceries because she has to pay bills, I can have a meal."

— sixth grader



Greater Berks Food Bank
1011 Tuckerton Court
Reading, PA 19605

Become a
WEEKENDER
Backpack
buddy



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About the WEEKENDER Backpack

P R O G R A M

- Backpacks are filled with enough food for six meals and two snacks and include a non-food item (shampoo, toothbrush, toilet paper, etc.)
- Food is child-friendly, non-perishable, easily consumed and vitamin fortified.
- Backpacks are distributed to children on Fridays or the last day before school holidays. The food is packed in nondescript backpacks to not draw attention.



"On days we don't have something to eat, there's always something in the bag."
- seventh grader

History of the Program

The Weekender Backpack Program started in Little Rock, Arkansas, when a school nurse asked for help because hungry students were coming to her with stomach aches and dizziness on Monday mornings. The local food bank began providing the children with groceries in nondescript backpacks to carry home. The backpack program concept today is carried out throughout the country – almost 140 food banks participate, serving more than 190,000 children each year.

"Wow, I got a whole box of cereal! That's so cool! We're going to have food in the house!"

- elementary school participant

Contact Information

Greater Berks Food Bank
1011 Tuckerton Court
Reading, PA 19605
Phone: (610) 926-5802
Fax: (610) 926-7638
www.berksfoodbank.org



A M E M B E R O F



MISSION STATEMENT
The mission of the Greater Berks Food Bank (GBFB) is to feed the hungry by acquiring and distributing food to people in need.

The Greater Berks Food Bank is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Your gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law. The Food Bank does not sell or share donor information with other organizations.

A copy of the official registration and financial information of the Greater Berks Food Bank may be obtained from the PA Dept. of State by calling 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Become a WEEKENDER Backpack *buddy*

- Fill a backpack for one child weekly for a month: **\$20**
- Fill a backpack for one child weekly for ½ of a school year: **\$100**
- Fill a backpack for one child weekly for a full school year: **\$200**
- Fill all the backpacks for one school for one week: **\$250**
- Fill all the backpacks for one school weekly for a month: **\$1000**
- Fill all the backpacks for one school weekly for a school year: **\$9,500**

Other amount: \$ _____

Become a sponsor by contributing monthly

- I would like to sponsor _____ child/children monthly (@ \$20 per child). Please bill \$ _____ to my credit card monthly (complete information below)

I would like to designate my gift to the following Weekender site:

Name _____

Company or organization (if any) _____

Street Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Email address _____

Please make your check payable to the **Greater Berks Food Bank** or pay by credit card:

- MC VISA AmEx

Acct. # _____

Exp. date ____/____/____

Return by mail to: Greater Berks Food Bank
1011 Tuckerton Court
Reading, PA 19605

