



Douglas County

Backpack Buddies

Helping Feed Students in Need

Annual Report 2023/2024

During our 15th academic school year, the Douglas County Backpack Buddies Program, served 320 students (a 13% increase from 2022/2023) in 12 schools (11 Douglas County, 1 Alpine County) with weekend bags of non-perishable food. These food bags consistently exceed the minimum USDA requirements of calories for the seven meals over the weekend. In total we distributed 5,776 food bags (a 24% increase from the previous year). A total of 74,936 lbs. of food in food bags was distributed and an additional 17,468 lbs. of food provided to school nurses, preschools, general school population, special programs, and needy families for a total of 92,404 lbs. of food provided to our in-need local community. The program was able to provide a weekend food bag to a student for \$9.51 per bag, an average of \$1.36 per meal.

Food drives were conducted at all schools and several in the community. However, the majority of the food was received through the Food Bank of Northern Nevada. Our continued collaboration with local social/food service agencies helps to make our combined community commitment strong. As in the past, BBP participants can count on us each Friday for weekend food. And, all schools can rely on us to provide snacks for any hungry student.

Over 4,800 volunteer hours were donated to the program by over 100 volunteers. These generous volunteers are what keep the Backpack Buddies Program going forward and meeting the weekend food needs of in-need students in our community. We continued our commitment in supporting special needs students by providing a work environment for them.

We completed a survey this year which showed that our efforts help student's attain better academic achievement, experience better attendance and less behavioral issues.

We express our gratitude to all who in their hearts and through their giving have supported the Backpack Buddies Program in our efforts to help the in-need students in Douglas County.

*Thank you, Lin Larson. Executive Director
Douglas County Backpack Buddies Program*