



Douglas County

# Backpack Buddies

*Helping Feed Students in Need*

## Annual Report 2020/2021

### **A year that tested resiliency, creativity and commitment.....**

**During our 12th academic school year, the Douglas County Backpack Buddies Program, served 346 students in 11 schools, Austin's House and the Washoe Tribe with weekend backpacks of non-perishable food. These backpacks consistently exceed the minimum USDA requirements of calories for the seven meals over the weekend. In total we distributed nearly 6,000 food bags. A total of 70,650 lbs. of food in food bags was distributed and an additional 6,047 lbs. of food provided to school nurses/preschools/general school population and needy families for a total of 76,697 lbs. of food provided to our in-need local community. The program was able to provide a weekend food bag to a student for \$6.11 per bag, an average of \$.87 per meal.**

**Despite the COVID crisis, throughout this year we delivered to schools and continued our collaboration with our local Food Closet as a secondary location for food bag pickup four days per week. With the support of the Suicide Prevention Network we once again reached out to the Washoe Tribe.. this time successfully. We also reached out to distance learners with options for participation.**

**Due to COVID, only two community food drives were conducted this year, but through our local food bank (Food Bank of Northern Nevada) we were able to access adequate food. Our continued collaboration with 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.**

**Over 3,962 volunteer hours were donated to the program by over 50 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 did not complete a survey this year as both the school district and the Backpack Buddies Program board felt that results would be skewed by the COVID pandemic.**

*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*