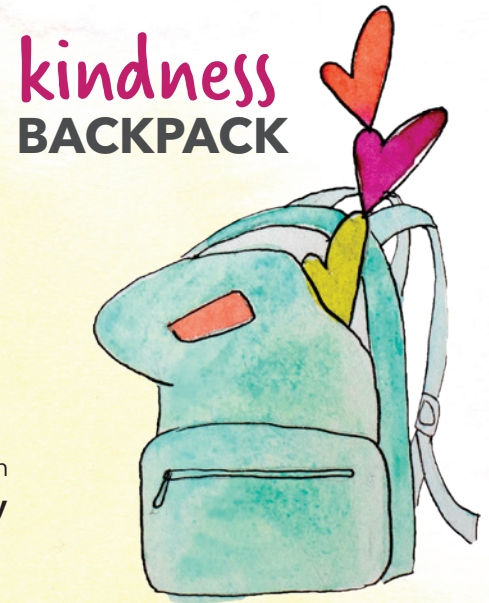


# 2019-2020 School Year Impact Report

More than **8,000 Warren County children** —14% of our kids — can't count on getting meals every day. We believe that no child in our community should go hungry or lack resources they need to thrive at school. The Kindness Backpack Program's mission is to spread kindness by providing food and supplies to fully support the tangible needs of low-income students at Warren County school districts. **We want to see all children in Warren County have the support they need to reach their full potential!**



## The launch

The Kindness Backpack Program is a non-profit initiative housed at the Warren County Foundation, and thanks to generous support from the **Warren County Women's Fund**, the Program was launched in the fall of 2019. Our efforts are first focused on **Franklin City Schools, where nearly 7 in 10 families are 'economically disadvantaged.'**

## How we serve students

The **all-volunteer Kindness Backpack team** partners with teachers and school administrators to identify families who would benefit from participating in the program. Each week, our volunteer team picks up food bags from Shared Harvest Foodbank and delivers them to classrooms so teachers can put the food bags in each child's backpack Friday afternoon. The food bag provides meals for the weekend, and includes two breakfast, two lunch, and two snack items, as well as a hand-written note of encouragement. **The program launched at the end of October and by the beginning of March over 80 children were being served every week. More than 3,500 food bags were sent home, providing 14,000 meals.**

“ The kids that receive the bags are coming to school on Monday, ready to work - they aren't starving! This is huge! The kids are ready to learn.

TEACHER, PENNYROYAL

## Covid-19 response

As Governor DeWine closed schools in mid-March, the Kindness Backpack team worked with the school district to quickly modify the weekend food bag distribution plan by partnering with the school district as they offered meal pick-up at designated sites. We expanded our program to serve not only Pennyroyal, but also Gerke Elementary, in Franklin. In addition to providing the “regular” weekend food bags, the team partnered

“ This program truly is a necessity. Many students don't have enough to eat at home, and this definitely benefits them.

TEACHER, PENNYROYAL

with the principals to identify families who were in need of additional food support during this incredibly difficult time. **The Kindness Backpack volunteer team responded by personally shopping for over 30 families and delivering emergency food boxes to 86 children to help families during the global pandemic.**



# 2019-2020 School Year Impact Report (Continued)

## Thank you to our generous partners

The Kindness Backpack program would not be successful without the generous support of many amazing partners. We'd like to thank...

- **Shared Harvest Foodbank** for providing the weekend food bags
- The **Franklin Fire Department** for storing the food in their warehouse and assisting with loading the trucks each week
- **River Valley Credit Union** for donating their parking lot as a fundraiser during Christmas in Springboro
- **Meijer in West Carrollton** for donating fresh fruit, vegetables and dairy to provide for families during Covid-19
- **Springboro National Honor Society Members** for creating handwritten notes of encouragement to send to students each week
- The **UPS Store in Springboro** for donating printing services
- A **team of over 27 volunteers** for delivering the food each week

## Thank you to our funders

Kindness Backpack is entirely volunteer-run, so 94% of all donations go to directly support students. We sincerely appreciate the Warren County Foundation and the Women's Fund for providing the anchor funding to start the program, and many others, including Southwest Church in Springboro and Clearcreek Applied Technology for providing generous gifts to cover operational costs.

“ We are so grateful for your program! One of my students told me that her dad was working extra shifts, but they were struggling to have enough food. I was able to immediately sign her up for a kindness bag and at least offer a little relief.

TEACHER, PENNYROYAL

## Looking ahead to serve more students

The Kindness Backpack program is committed to fully supporting the needs of students at Pennyroyal and Gerke schools in the 2020-21 school year. **Our goal is to serve at least 200 students** by providing weekend food bags and offering additional support such as providing school supplies, helping with school fees, and other tangible needs.

## How you can help

- Fun, encouraging, colorful handwritten notes are sent home with each child in the weekend food bag—and we need help making over 6,000 notes for the 2020-21 school year! Children, students, adults, and seniors can help us make simple and fun personalized notes.
- As we grow to serve more students, donations are always needed. Tax-deductible donations can be made at [WarrenCountyFoundation.org](https://www.warrencountyfoundation.org); click on **Donate**, enter “Other Designee” and **type in Kindness Backpack Fund**, or write a check and note Kindness Backpack in the Memo and mail to: **Warren County Foundation, P.O. Box 495, Lebanon, Ohio, 45036.**
- Volunteers are needed to pick up and deliver food bags during the school year.



Email [adkindnessbp@gmail.com](mailto:adkindnessbp@gmail.com) to get involved

[www.kindnessbackpacks.org](https://www.kindnessbackpacks.org) | @kindnessbackpackprogram



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