

## **Backpack Initiative to Fight Hunger At Deer Lakes**

The Backpack Initiative to Fight Hunger program began in January 2013. Any child in the Deer Lakes School District's kindergarten through twelfth grade may participate. Forms will go home with the children or you may pick up a form in the office of your child's school. At this time there are no eligibility requirements.

With the economy the way it is today many of our children go home to a house with no food. Many at least get breakfast and lunch at school during the week but what happens on the weekends. This program will help. Each child enrolled in the program will receive a bag of food on Fridays. The bag would include 2 breakfast items such as a single serving of cereal and breakfast bar and 2 lunch items such as soup and mac and cheese. Also, included in the bag would possibly be pudding, cheese crackers, applesauce, fruit cup, fruit snacks, etc. What is sent home depends on what we have available. If there is not enough food available for distribution, we will not have a distribution that week.

I am amazed at how generous the people in the Deer Lakes School District have been since the program has begun. We were able to give at least twelve items of food to the one hundred and thirty-two children each week during this past school year. Thank you so much for your support.

Again I am asking for support for the 2019-2020 school year. This year I am sure we will be doing more than one hundred fifty bags a week. If you can, we would like support from you. Help can be donations of food items or monetary donations. Monetary donations can be sent to Backpack Initiative to Fight Hunger, 70 East Union Road, Cheswick, PA 15024. Make checks payable to D L Backpack Initiative. If you have food donations, please call Carol at 724-312-5656 for pick-up.

Some food items that can be used are canned fruit and fruit cups, fruit juice, dried fruit, oatmeal, crackers, cereal, trail mix, soups, snack size foods, food bars such as granola bars, peanut butter, microwave popcorn, pudding packs, apple sauce packs, canned ravioli, spaghetti and boxes of macaroni and cheese. Food and monetary donations will be accepted anytime during the school year. Thank you for your help in the past and I hope you can continue to help this year.

Thank you,