

A NETWORK OF WEEKEND FOOD PROGRAMS

PROBLEM

Over 200,000 children in Minnesota don't always have access to the nutrition they need to learn and grow. In order to fight this damaging reality, The Sheridan Story focuses on the weekend food gap, when children aren't able to receive free and reduced meal programs at school.

SOLUTION

Not a typical "backpack program", but a full-service non-profit organization specializing in equipping the community to implement weekend food programs in their local school. The Sheridan Story provides the tools, resources, and expertise required to make an effective and significant impact on child hunger. At the end of each school week our network provides each child in our program with 4-5 pounds of substantive, nutritious food.



SPONSORING A SCHOOL

Community groups work directly with the schools, building a relationship and partnership with them. This sponsor organization provides part of the funding for the program based on the number of children participating in their partner school. In most situations, the Sponsor also provides volunteers each week to distribute the food to the children at the school. Examples of sponsor organizations includes churches or other faith communities, companies, clubs, non-profits, and more.

THE SHERIDAN STORY'S ROLE

The Sheridan Story manages the operations and logistics of the weekend food program. We source the food, run the inventory management and food packing events, and store and deliver the food to the schools. We provide hands-on guidance and expertise as well as materials to implement the program including promotional material, multiple-language permission slips, sponsor fundraising tools, and any additional help needed along the way.

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OUR MISSION FIGHT CHILD HUNGER THROUGH COMMUNITY AND SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

TYPE OF FOOD

Our food selection is based on nutritional data and feedback from families and schools. We have determined that the type of food that provides the greatest level of support to the children and families we serve are fruits, vegetables, proteins, grain bases (rice, pasta, oatmeal), and soups/entrées. Our bags are guided by the USDA My Plate structure, and typically include one of each of these food items.

Beyond our goal to provide healthy food, we also only source food that is safe, high quality, and preserves dignity for our participating families and children. We put a lot of thought into our food selection; buying food from several different suppliers throughout the country to ensure quality and broad appeal to families.

BEYOND FOOD

Our goal isn't simply to eliminate the physical feeling of hunger. Children lacking nutrition experience more difficulties academically, socially, and behaviorally. By providing a consistent and stable source of nutrition, children can focus their energy on improved school attendance, higher grades, and improved test scores; all of which can help lead to positive self-esteem and more.

DISCREET DISTRIBUTION

We work with each of the schools in our network to identify the most discreet way to distribute our bags of food to the children in the school. In most cases, the volunteers go to the child's locker and put the bag directly in the child's backpack. This is typically done during a time when the students are in class and not in the hallways.

**Join us in the fight against child hunger
at sheridanstory.com**