



EVERY MEAL

FIGHTING CHILD HUNGER

PROBLEM: Over 300,000 children in Minnesota live in food insecurity and don't always have access to the nutrition they need to learn and grow. This is about 100,000 more kids than prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Every Meal exists to fight this devastating reality by focusing on the gaps to food access that children face during weekends, summers, and extended breaks.

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. Every Meal provides the tools, resources, expertise, and food required to make an effective and significant impact on child hunger. At the end of each school week and during extended breaks, 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 donates towards the cost of the program, and every child in the school has the opportunity to sign up to receive our food - there are no income qualifications or other restrictions. 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.

EVERY MEAL'S ROLE: Every Meal manages the operations and logistics of the food programs. We source the food, run the inventory management and food packing events, and store and deliver the food to the schools and other food distribution locations. 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.



everymeal.org

OUR MISSION

Fight child hunger through community and school partnerships

GOOD FOOD

Every Meal is committed to providing good food that is nutritious, delicious and relevant. Our food selection is based on nutritional data and feedback from surveys, cultural liaisons, and community groups. Our staff dietitian works to ensure our meal bags meet current nutrition standards as outlined by the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs. We taste test the food we buy to make sure it tastes, smells and looks delicious. To make our food relevant, we offer families a choice from multiple meal bag options, which are tailored to different cultures and family situations.

To ensure we provide good food, we purchase most of our food from reputable suppliers across the country and only source food that is safe, high quality, and preserves the dignity for our participants.

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

Every Meal is committed to maintaining the privacy and dignity of the children and families we serve, and we work with each school and other food distribution locations in our network to identify the most discreet way to provide our bags of food to the children. 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.

EVERY CHILD. EVERY MEAL.®