



Your Giving Counts!

Moving in the Spirit Ministries in Gary is one of the local distribution sites for the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana's Backpack program. Every Friday afternoon caring staff at Moving in the Spirit hand out food filled meal boxes to children as they prepare to load the bus to go home. The smiles on the kids faces as their receiving their boxes is contagious and shows you just how much they appreciate the program.



Kids at Moving in the Spirit Ministries receiving their meal boxes

bags," says Mark.

"The bags are good. They have lots of food," adds Tyrah. "They have graham crackers. I love graham crackers. I like that they have them," she adds.

"I like the healthy stuff," Mark chimes in. In addition to the pre-packaged food inside the boxes, the children also receive fresh fruits. Despite enjoying the healthy options Mark did admit to one less than healthy request, "I wish they had hamburgers."

"Or sandwiches," Tyrah chimes in.

Tori and her children find themselves in the same situation many Food Bank clients find themselves in; there just isn't enough money in the household to cover expenses. People like Tori have to decide between paying their bills, putting gas in their car or buying food for their families. "This program makes it easier. It helps out with the grocery bills," Tori explains. She is able to use the money she would have had to spend on weekend groceries on other necessities like bills and clothes for Mark and Tyrah. It also provides parents with a little peace of mind knowing that their children are being fed. "I look forward to Fridays," says Tori.

"Any little bit helps," says Tori. "We're very appreciative of everything that Moving in the Spirit and the Food Bank gives to us," she adds.

"For a lot of these kids, these are the only meals they'll get over the weekend. We make sure that everyone who is eligible is signed up and that every child on the program receives and takes home their box every Friday," explains Pastor Priest, one of the administrators at Moving in the Spirit.

Mark and Tyrah have been receiving backpacks from Moving in the Spirit for two years. They were the first children signed up to the program and their mother says it really comes in handy. "I'm really satisfied with the program," says their mother Tori.

"We were getting backpacks when they were still green



Tyrah and Mark