

Meet Some of the Children Whose Lives You're Changing ...

What does your support mean for hungry kids who receive a Backpack of food for every weekend of the school year? Recently, some of our recipients handwrote thank-you notes to tell us. Here are a few, in their own words (and spelling!) ...

"I like you because your food is good. I can't wait!"

Emma, age 6, Merrillville

"God bless you all for helping me."

Jennifer, 9th grade, Portage

"excited. yummy. thankful. happy. treats."

Destiny, kindergarten, Merrillville

"It fulls us with joy."

London, 3rd grade

"I am so thankful."

Alicia, 4th grade, Portage

"I don't no you you make me fell loved."

Skye, Merrillville

"When I come home I can have a good meal and also stay healthy. That is why I appreciet the backpack of food."

Lillian, 4th grade

*The Backpack Program helps prevent at-risk children from going hungry by providing them with nonperishable, easily prepared and consumed meals and snacks every weekend of the school year, plus holiday breaks. With your help, the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana will provide 35,000 meals or more during the 2019-2020 academic year. **THANK YOU!** ♥*

Let's Keep Growing ...

From the Food Bank's humble beginnings in an old furniture storefront, to our small, over-crowded barn, the good people of our community have always been there. You've rallied behind our mission, held food drives, volunteered, and donated. You've shared our dream to expand. And from our new Merrillville location, we are realizing immense potential to reach thousands more of the Region's kids, adults, and seniors in need.

And not *just* with nutritious foods they need for today. But with new, innovative solutions for tomorrow — solutions to help them overcome challenges that often lead to hunger in the first place.

I am counting on you to be a leader, an advocate, a friend who helps these new dreams become a reality. If you haven't yet joined the ***Fighting Hunger, Growing Hope*** campaign, I hope you'll do so today. Maybe you'll even consider being honored among our \$500+ leaders with a personalized leaf on our lobby wall.

Only together can we say YES to those who have nowhere else to turn ... like the 80-year-old woman I recently met who walks miles in the cold and rain so she can receive food assistance at our Mobile Market ... parents who piece together income from two or three jobs just to keep food on the table ... or the disabled military vet who relies on two area church pantries to keep from going hungry.

Thank you for your passionate commitment — for bringing the life-giving power of food.



Steve Beekman
Executive Director



Hundreds Turn Out to Celebrate FOOD BANK'S GROWTH, FUTURE POTENTIAL

Nearly 300 friends, donors, and community partners attended the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana's May 16 ribbon-cutting ceremony at its new location at 6490 Broadway in Merrillville.

"Without the generosity donors continue to show our Fighting Hunger, Growing Hope campaign, this relocation simply could not have happened," said Executive Director Steve Beekman. "Space for fresh foods has increased 500%, and today we are positioned to distribute thousands more pounds of produce and high-protein meats to hungry children and adults every month."

The historic move signals a new day for the Food Bank's longer-term goal to address broader issues that lead to hunger. Nutrition classes, a community café, garden, and job training program are among the planned initiatives aimed at preventing hunger.

Top corporate donors recognized during the event included the John W. Anderson Foundation, the Boomsma Family, Dutch Farms, Eleanor Leese, Foundations of East Chicago, and Strack and Van Til.

"I encourage everyone to increase their involvement so we can better serve the needs of the estimated 90,000 Region residents facing hunger this year," Beekman said. "Thank you for all you give and do for our neighbors in need."

The Food Bank is honoring top capital campaign donors (\$500+) on a wall of recognition. To contribute, visit foodbanknwi.org/growinghope or call 219.980.1777, ext. 311. ♥

Your Gifts Now Serving More Porter & Lake County Families Through Mobile Markets

“My husband was let go from his job this past winter,” one mom from Hobart explained. “I have a little income, but he was our family’s main breadwinner. We have one young son, and visiting the Food Bank’s Mobile Market at Portage High School has been so helpful!”

“We’re especially grateful for the protein choices: fresh chicken and pork chops. One month this spring there were fresh fruits and vegetables. That was really nice. You want to eat healthy, but the cost of those things is so high at the grocery stores.”

“Recently I found out a family in our neighborhood has also fallen on hard times. I told them about the Market, and now they’ve gotten help, too.”

Your generosity is making a difference! From our new Merrillville location, more than 20 tons — or 32,000 meals — of food are reaching hungry neighbors every month through Mobile Market. This year’s distributions *have nearly doubled* over last, ***thanks to you!*** ♥



YOUR GIFT = SUMMER MEALS for Kids in Poverty

Nearly 30,000 children across Northwest Indiana are at risk for going hungry this summer according to Feeding America’s most recent Map the Meal Gap report.

But thanks to your help, the Food Bank is feeding kids at one of the many Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sites around the Region. Together, we’ll bridge the gap with over 35,000 meals served to 400+ kids visiting community centers around East Chicago. When school breakfasts and lunches aren’t available, the last thing a child should have to worry about is whether or not they’ll eat that day. ♥

Mark Your 2019 Calendar!

HUNGER HIKE

Saturday 9/28

Oak Ridge Prairie
301 S. Colfax St.
Griffith

MARGARITA MIXER

Thursday
7/18

Food Bank of NWI
6490 Broadway
Merrillville

HUNGER ACTION MONTH FRESH MOBILE MARKET

Saturday 9/14

Food Bank of NWI
6490 Broadway
Merrillville

THE *soirée* AN EVENT TO FIGHT HUNGER

THANK YOU Soirée Sponsors & Guests!

On June 9, over 200 Food Bank donors and friends gathered at the Gary Aquatorium to help end hunger across Northwest Indiana. The annual event raised \$32,373 — dollars now at work to feed children and adults in need and address broader issues that affect families' ability to access the nourishing foods they need to thrive.

♥ Special thanks go to our generous attendees and the following event sponsors:

GOLD



SILVER

Ozinga
Land O'Frost
Community Connects Committee
Direct Mortgage Loans

BRONZE

General Insurance Services
Teachers Credit Union
Chase
First Financial Bank
Matrix NAC

MISSION

To feed people today, and end hunger tomorrow by inspiring and collaborating with our community.

♥ **Let's keep growing!** Here's my gift to support the many ways the Food Bank is helping to end hunger for our Region's neediest children and adults:

☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$

Please direct \$_____ of the above gift to the *Fighting Hunger, Building Hope* campaign.

For more information about donating, visit foodbanknwi.org

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

I would like more information about:

- ☐ Volunteering ☐ Donating food or hosting a food drive
☐ Giving a gift to Food Bank of Northwest Indiana through my will
☐ Receiving occasional email updates

My email is _____

☐ I would like to pledge a monthly gift of \$_____.
My first gift is enclosed.

☐ Charge my gift to: ☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ Discover ☐ AMEX

CARD NO. _____

EXP. DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____

Please make your check payable to:

Food Bank of Northwest Indiana
6490 Broadway, Merrillville, IN 46410

Please call 219.980.1777, ext. 311, to charge your gift by phone, or visit www.foodbanknwi.org to make a gift online.

Your gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law.