

## POWERPAK 4 KIDS - BACKPACK PROGRAM

### *Program Overview*

Many children who rely on free or reduced-priced lunches during the school year go home to little or no meals on weekends. The Wichita Falls Area Food Bank PowerPak 4 Kids Backpack program helps to fill that void.

The most recent data available shows that during the 95% of children qualify for free and reduced lunch but only 33% participate.

PowerPak 4 Kids Backpacks (PP4K), are a two-pound sack of nourishing food handed to a child at the end of the school week. Each bag contains food for light nutritious meals along with an activity sheet promoting good nutrition. Since inception in 2006, we have successfully expanded from serving 493 children to reaching a peak of over 1,700 children weekly during the school year. We work with 56 school locations in 11 of our 12 county area to distribute bags during the school year. In the summer months, we work with individuals, youth clubs, churches and agencies to distribute bags in eight locations. Over the full year of 2016, we distributed 55,541 bags.

Teachers and other staff that work directly with these children recommend participants for the program based on food insecure criteria provided by the Food Bank. All of the sites are selected to host the program because they: serve a large number of children facing hunger; and have demonstrated capacity to execute the program successfully. We will continue to work to feed those children we have already identified and address challenges that keep food from reaching our most vulnerable clients.



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