



May 5, 2024

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### *What's New*

We are nearing the end of another season -- May 17 will be our last delivery this school year. Thanks to our amazing volunteers and donors, Backpack Blessings has nourished students and shared the love of Jesus for 13 years!

It is also the beginning of a new season, a new era. After many years of faithful service, taking Backpack Blessings from just the seed of an idea to today's program serving over 500 students each week, several of our Board members announced their retirement at the end of May. We thank them for their leadership and service and wish them all the best in a well-deserved retirement.

stewardship team going forward.

In other news, the Board elected Brad Hill, our current Chief Marketing Officer, as the new Chairman and CEO. Erin Poole was promoted to Vice President of Operations. These changes are effective June 1, 2024.

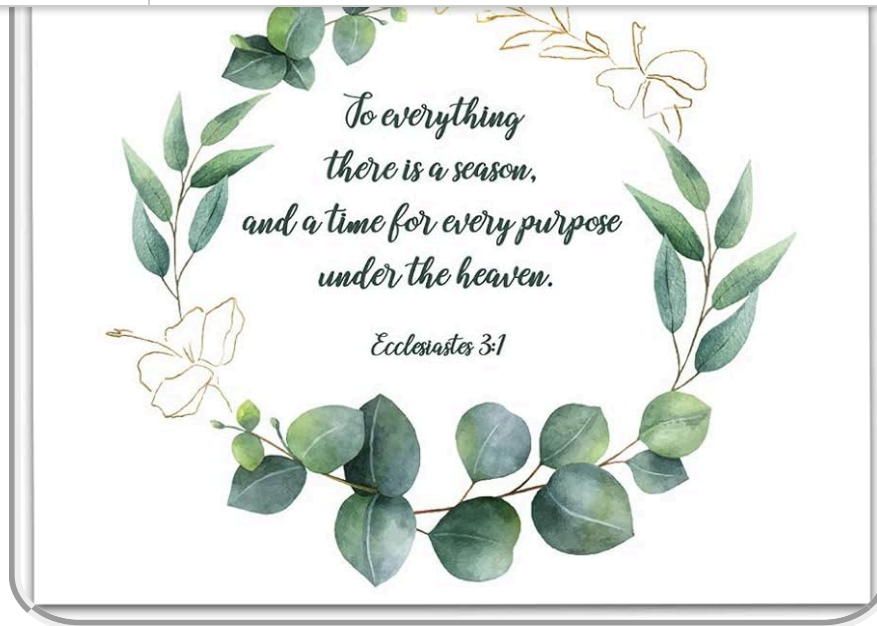
### ***Servant Leader Award Winners***



We are thrilled to honor the exceptional dedication and service of several retiring Board members who have been instrumental in our fight against childhood hunger for the past 13 years. In recognition of their unwavering commitment and leadership, we introduce the inaugural Servant Leader Award. This award acknowledges their tireless effort in spreading love and combating hunger, while inspiring countless individuals along the way. We extend congratulations and our deepest gratitude to:

**Tony Palermo    Stacy Ronai    Ben Hornsby**  
**Pam Palermo    Jerry Uffner    Gretchen Hornsby**

Even though they are resigning from the Board at the end of this school year, they tell us they will continue volunteering and supporting Backpack Blessings. Their legacy of compassion and service will forever remain a guiding light as we continue our mission to nourish students and share the love of Christ.



## **Welcome Aboard, Mindy!**



Please join us in welcoming Mindy Newsome as the newest Backpack Blessings Board Member! Mindy and her husband Brian have two daughters. She works at Vallen USA as Director, Business Development, and has been active in the childhood ministry of Mt. Bethel Church for many years. As is our custom, we asked her a few questions so you could get to know her better!

### **Why did you decide to join the Board?**

I'm very passionate about children and ensuring they have what they need to succeed and feel valued. I am so EXCITED to be a part of Backpack Blessings.

### **How have you been involved with Mt. Bethel's childhood ministry?**

Brian and I are volunteers in Kid City at Mt. Bethel, we teach 5<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School, and I host in large group. One of my favorite volunteer roles at Mt. Bethel is VBS! It's one of my favorite weeks of the year because I get to be super silly and loud (which come naturally for me) and teach kids about Jesus.

### **What are your favorite recreational activities?**

I am kind of a gym rat and really enjoy working out. I also love, love, love to travel.

### **If you only had 3 words to describe you, what would they be?**

High Energy, Silly, Kind

Candy, Cake, Cookies, Ice Cream...well, anything with sugar.

**What is your favorite Bible verse?**

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." *Joshua 1:9 NIV*

***Important Dates***



May 16 – May 17	Final BackPack Week
May 22	Last Day of School
August 1	First Day of School

***BackPack Blessings Elects New Chair & CEO***



Please congratulate Brad Hill, elected as Chairman & CEO, effective June 1. Brad has served as a Crew Leader and Board Member for nine and six years, respectively. He is a retired corporate executive, but consults occasionally and works with youth as a Supply/Substitute Teacher. Brad and his wife Stephanie, are members of Mt. Bethel Church, with two children and six grands who keep them busy!



***Volunteers & Students in Action***





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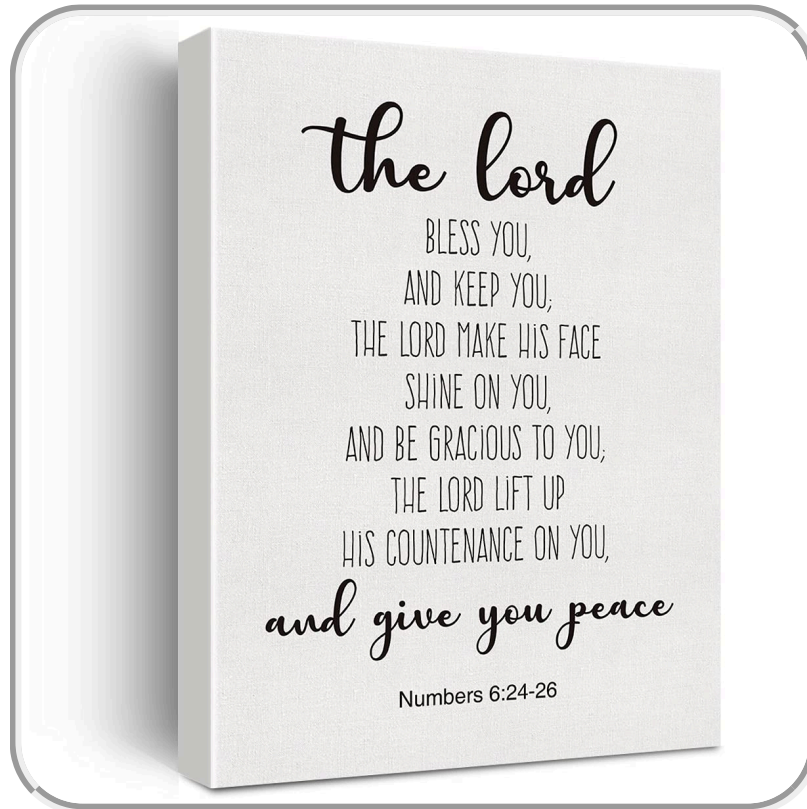
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**\$375 Supports 1 Child for 1 Year**

**All Donations to Backpack Blessings are Tax Deductible**

**Donations Go 100% To Support The Children**

### TO VOLUNTEER

Click on button below or go to:

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### TO SERVE AS CREW LEAD

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