

December 11, 2023

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It's the most special time of year -- the time of our dear Savior's birth. It is a season of giving and giving thanks that God sent His Son to show us the way. Let us celebrate and rejoice -- and give thanks for the greatest gift ever given.

We are also thankful for our volunteers and donors -- for your loving hearts, your dedicated hands and feet, and your commitment to children who don't always know when the next meal is coming. By providing nourishment and sharing Christ's love, you are making a difference in the world.

May God Bless you and your family and Merry Christmas to us all!

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### ***Year-End Giving***



Just like you, we have seen our annual food costs rise dramatically -- over 80% in the past year. In order to continue providing a weekly backpack filled with nutritious, child-

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As you think about year-end giving, gifts for family and friends, small group projects, etc. please consider a donation to Backpack Blessings. Please tell others about our ministry and share our website: [www.backpackblessings.org](http://www.backpackblessings.org).

We are trusting in God's provision as we look ahead and plan for the 2024-2025 school year. Thank you and Merry Christmas!

**Donate**

### ***Principal | Teacher | Soldier | Servant***

"I love being in the schools because it's another way to serve the community," said Fair Oaks Elementary School Principal Cathie Seibert in a recent CCSD article. And serve she has done! Before she was a Teacher or Principal, she joined the U.S. Army and was one of the first females assigned to the DMZ in Korea. She has quite a few adventures to talk about from that experience, including learning how to drive a tank and rappel head first!



Military service runs in the family as her husband is an Air Force veteran and her son went to the U.S. Naval Academy and is now serving the country. But Cathie says the transition from being a soldier to an educator was not difficult because for her, the foundation is the same—service.

This is Cathie's 17th year serving Cobb students. She first started helping students at HAVEN Academy. Before becoming Principal at Fair Oaks in 2021, she supported students at Birney Elementary School and Griffin Middle School. "My background is as an exceptional education teacher. That's my background and my absolute, absolute passion."

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process required to become a live liver donor. Thanks to Principal Seibert, the recipient, a local doctor, is healthy and able to support Cobb students and the Fair Oaks community.

Back at Fair Oaks, the U.S. Army veteran looks for ways to support her students and their families. For example, if her students need new shoes, Fair Oaks has a shoe closet. Thanks to community partners, Fair Oaks provides families with other needs like diapers and formula. And, of course, Cathie is a key supporter of BackPack Blessings, Fair Oak's chosen Community Partner of the year in 2022.

Principal Seibert also volunteers at the Pearson Middle School Fresh Market, which supports school families. "I love serving our community, and I think being in the public schools is just another way to saturate the community and serve and support." We'll leave you with one of Cathie's favorite quotes, *"Every child is one caring adult away from a success story."*



Source:

[https://www.cobbk12.org/\\_ci/p/91966?fbclid=IwAR08w8sA13HfGFYAdCgVctYEiPcg8VS2yiKgG48cWGRTZgbbTqek3c-BbyU](https://www.cobbk12.org/_ci/p/91966?fbclid=IwAR08w8sA13HfGFYAdCgVctYEiPcg8VS2yiKgG48cWGRTZgbbTqek3c-BbyU)

***Thanks, Ben***



After 13 years of faithful service, Ben Hornsby recently announced his retirement from the BackPack Blessings Board of Directors. Ben was one of the original Founders; in fact, he planted the original seed of the BackPack Blessings concept and then championed the idea through start-up. He has also served as the liaison with Mt. Bethel Church for many years.

When asked what his favorite part of BPB was, Ben said, "The children, helping make a difference, and the volunteers who unload the food delivery truck." After serving for so long, Ben simply said, "It was time."

What's next? Well, thankfully, he has agreed to continue coordinating our Wednesday food truck unloading volunteers. You'll also see Ben in his first row pew at Mt. Bethel Church,

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BackPack Blessings gives heartfelt thanks to Ben for his many years of service and wishes him all the best!

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***Important Dates***



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***Volunteers & Students in Action***



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

## TO VOLUNTEER

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