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Christmas Edition | Volume 10 | December 2021



## STACY'S SCOOP

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As the COVID pandemic keeps us in unprecedented times, Back Pack Blessings continues to struggle with supply chain issues. In our 11 year history, this has been the most challenging in terms of securing food to pack each week. As many of our volunteers are well aware, we are packing different food from week to week and are grateful for what we can get. On top of these supply challenges, the cost of food has risen a dramatic 18% this year.



I would like to give a HUGE shoutout to Cathy Cunha, who has been incredible in helping us source food each week from various vendors. She has gone above and beyond to ensure we have food to pack each week for the students! Also, a big shoutout to the gentlemen that volunteer to meet our distributors' trucks each Tuesday and deliver the food to the Cagle House. This too has been a challenge, as the distributors are short of drivers so the delivery times are inconsistent each week. These volunteers wait for a text each week and show up on very short notice.

Speaking of volunteers, we are truly blessed with the best, that show up week after week to stage, pack and deliver the back packs. If you would like to volunteer for the second half of the year, please email [backpackblessingsvolunteer@gmail.com](mailto:backpackblessingsvolunteer@gmail.com) and Kimberlee Ackermann will get you on the schedule. Thank you to all the individuals, families, Life Groups, organizations, troops, and sports teams that have volunteered this year! Also, a BIG thank you to our faithful donors, we could not serve the number of students we do without you and our volunteers!

As we enter this most amazing time of year, I want to wish you and your family a blessed Christmas and healthy & Happy New Year!

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**Our Tuesday volunteers enjoying a well deserved meal!**

A Huge **SHOUTOUT** to Dale Schaub, Jim Cochran, David Clark, Leon Monroe, Rex Harper, Mike Gilliam, Scott Calvert and Pat McKellar.

## The Principal's Perspective



I love to ride the school bus each Friday afternoon when the backpacks go home, because the look on students' faces when they deliver them to their parents is priceless. The students are so excited about their backpacks since they provide them with a way to help support their families. I recently visited a single mom with six children, the youngest of whom is a toddler and the oldest of whom is fifteen years old. Two of her children attend Fair Oaks, and their

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by reducing stress and anxiety, caused by food insecurity, in addition to helping provide the nutrition for them to learn and grow.

Our Backpack Blessings team members are a crucial part of our school fabric, and the students love getting hugs from the team each Friday. Every day we are given opportunities to serve, and we are so thankful for the Backpack Blessings ministry.

**THANK YOU  
FOR  
SUPPORTING  
AN AMAZING  
ORGANIZATION!!**

***We are so fortunate to  
receive assistance.***

Cathie Siebert



## Fun Facts About Your Board Members

*Your Back Pack Blessings Board members spend a fair amount of time and energy to ensure that our mission is being fulfilled and that the organization's future is on a sustainable path. But, they do have lives outside BPB so we asked them to answer a few questions, like what their favorite activity is or what apps they would select for their phone if they could only have three, in order for you to get to know them better!*

### **Fun Fact**

Tony was Indian Hills CC

Match Play Champ in 2017

### **Fav Activity**

Travel (but not much lately)  
& Golf (not very good lately)

### **Pet Peeve**

People that just talk the talk  
but don't walk the walk

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Tony Palermo

governance

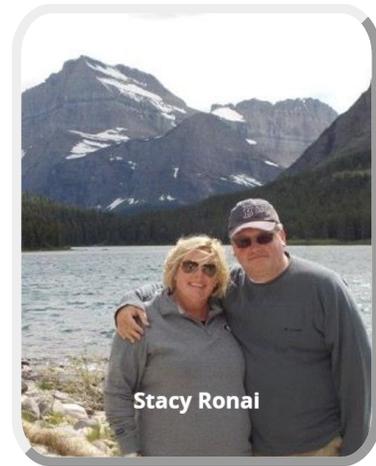
"something needs to be done")

**Fav Bible Verse** Psalm 46:10

*Be still and know that I am God.*

- Fav Activity** Travel
- Fav Show** This is Us
- Fav Restaurant** Seed
- Guilty Pleasure** Sporting Events
- Pet Peeve** Unkind People
- If Only 3 APPS** Google, Music, Waze
- Fav Bible Verse** Isaiah 41:10

*Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.*



Stacy Ronai



Jerry Uffner

- Fun Fact** Jerry's coached 50+ youth teams
- Fav Activity** Running & Working Out
- Fav Show** Yellowstone & The Crown
- Fav Restaurant** Bagelicious
- Guilty Pleasure** Ben & Jerry's
- Pet Peeve** People who cut in line
- If Only 3 APPS** Amazon, Bible, FitBit
- Fav Bible Verse** Matthew 19:26

*With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible*

- Fun Fact** Ben loves wood working shops!
- Fav Movie** Destination Tokyo
- Fav Show** Old Christmas or WWII movies

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)**Fav Bible Verse** Romans 8: 35-39

*35 Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? ...*



*37 No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. 38 And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow – not even the power of hell can separate us from God's love. 39 No power in the sky above or in the earth below – indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**Fav Activity**

Traveling, Bible Studies,  
and Reading

**Fav Shows**

HGTV Renovation Shows

**Fav Restaurant**

Mellow Mushroom

**If Only 3 APPS**

Maps, Podcasts, Pandora

**Fav Bible Verse**

Isaiah 41:10

*Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.*

**Fav Activity**

Tennis and Travel

**Fav Show**

Ted Lasso

**Fav Movie**

Mrs. Doubtfire

**Fav Restaurant**

L on North

**Guilty Pleasure**

Watching *The Voice*

**If Only 3 APPS**

Waze, Jesus Calling, Kindle

**Fav Bible Verse**

Proverbs 3: 5-6

*5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. 6 Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.*



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Gretchen  
Hornsby

**Fun Fact**

Will & I met on the internet before  
it was so common!

**Fav Activity**

Watching our boys play sports

**Fav Movie**

Star Wars Trilogy

**Fav Restaurant**

Bone Garden Cantina

**Fav Bible Verse**

Hebrews 12:1

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.*

**Fun Fact**

Brad records his sports teams  
and will only watch if they win!

**Fav Activity**

Tennis and Golf

**Fav Movie**

The Sting

**Guilty Pleasure**

Donuts

**Pet Peeves**

Poorly synchronized stoplights

**If Only 3 APPS**

Google, Waze, Calendar

**Fav Bible Verse**

Isaiah 40:31

*But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.*



Brad Hill

Well, obviously our Board Members are all unique, but they are united when it comes to serving the children, sharing the love of Christ, and being appreciative of the best volunteers anywhere!

Amen!!!

**THANKS** to all who supported our Giving Tuesday campaign this past month! Based on your generosity, we had record results and are better equipped to deal with rising food costs. God Bless all of our volunteers and donors!

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GIVE JOY ♥ SPREAD LOVE ♥ INSPIRE HOPE



# How You Can Get Involved

 A 3D character holding a block labeled "Help", with arrows pointing to a list of ways to get involved:
 

- Pray
- Donate
- Volunteer
- Designate BPB as Your Charitable Partner
  - Amazon Smiles
  - Kroger
- Follow Us on Social Media

***\$300 Supports 1 Child for 1 Year***  
**All Donations are Tax Deductible**

## Donate On-Line:

- [www.backpackblessings.org/donate](http://www.backpackblessings.org/donate)
- **Facebook** (*Back Pack Blessings, Inc.*)

Click to Donate

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Fair Oaks Elementary and the Salvation Army After School Program.

If you have any suggestions for how we might improve Back Pack Blessings, please email us at [backpackblessingsvolunteer@gmail.com](mailto:backpackblessingsvolunteer@gmail.com).

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!

**CLICK BELOW TO CONTACT US  
OR  
FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM!**



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**Our mailing address is:**

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