



FALL 2019 NEWSLETTER | Issue 3 | Date: November 12, 2019

[www.backpackblessings.org](http://www.backpackblessings.org)

## TONY'S CORNER

As many of you know, this is our 9th year serving food insecure children in Cobb County. You know that because you have been working with us side-by-side for many of those years!

It is hard to believe that 18% of elementary school children are not getting enough food, especially during the weekend, to sustain a nourished body ready to learn on Monday. Back Pack Blessings, with the support of Mt. Bethel Church, our volunteers, and our donors combine to allow us to serve this need on a consistent, Christ-centered basis.

We provide much needed food for these children to get through the weekend. But, at the top of the list is demonstrating Christian values.

As long as we continue to have the support from those mentioned above, we will continue to work hard and lead this effort in our community. God bless you and your families. Happy Thanksgiving. We have so much to be thankful for.

Tony Palermo

**Those who can, do.**

**Those who can do more, volunteer!**

*"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"*

Matthew 25:40 (ESV)

## THE SCOOP FROM STACY

As we enter this season of thankfulness, I cannot thank our donors and volunteers enough! When we started this Ministry nine years ago I had no idea that I would encounter the amazing people who give from the heart to support and serve His children on a weekly basis. We have so many hero donors who have been with us from the start and hero volunteers that show up every single week. It truly takes a village for this Ministry to operate and we have the best group of volunteers of all ages and backgrounds! Let me also give a huge thanks to our Board of Directors and Team Leaders who step up every time there is a need!



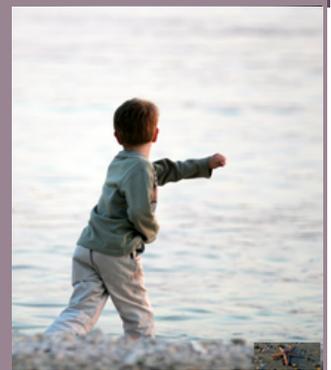
I am blessed to be part of Back Pack Blessings and pray that God will continue to guide us during these uncertain times. Wishing y'all a blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas Season!!!

Stacy Ronai

To Volunteer Contact:  
[backpackblessingsvolunteer@gmail.com](mailto:backpackblessingsvolunteer@gmail.com)

## THE DIFFERENCE MAKERS

A man was walking on the beach one morning after a particularly violent storm. Starfish littered the vast beach as far as the eye could see. As he



walked, the man came upon a young boy who was eagerly throwing the starfish into the ocean, one by one. Puzzled, he asked the boy what he was doing. Without looking up the boy replied, "I'm saving these starfish, sir". The man chuckled aloud and said, "Son, there are thousands of starfish and only one of you. What difference can you possibly make?" The little boy picked up another starfish, gently tossed it into the sea and said, "I made a difference to that one!"

Won't you please make a difference by demonstrating your love and contributing financially to this Ministry?!

## KEY DATES

November 28 - 29	No BPB -Thanksgiving
December 19 - 20	Final 2019 Delivery
January 9 - 10	First 2020 Delivery

**100% of Donations to BPB  
Go To The Children**

## SPREADING LOVE!



Connie Ericsson sharing play time at Fair Oaks Elementary!



Packing is also a time of fellowship!



Jim Reichenbach and Neil Bloom, two of our ever-faithful Friday delivery and 'Logistics Directors', sharing hugs and love with the students at Fair Oaks!

## DID YOU KNOW ...

Food statistics show that one out of four children in Georgia live in a state of food insecurity.

Each week during the school year, Back Pack Blessings serves over 500 kids at Fair Oaks Elementary, Acworth Elementary, and a Salvation Army after school program.

A lot of consideration, ranging from nutrition, to taste, shelf life, food allergies, and budget, goes into determining the food items to provide in the back packs. This year we conducted a survey of the students at Fair Oaks Elementary to get their feedback. As a result, we made some minor changes:



The survey says:

- Chicken soup is out
- Tuna is in
- Zoo crackers are out
- Cheerios cereal bars are in

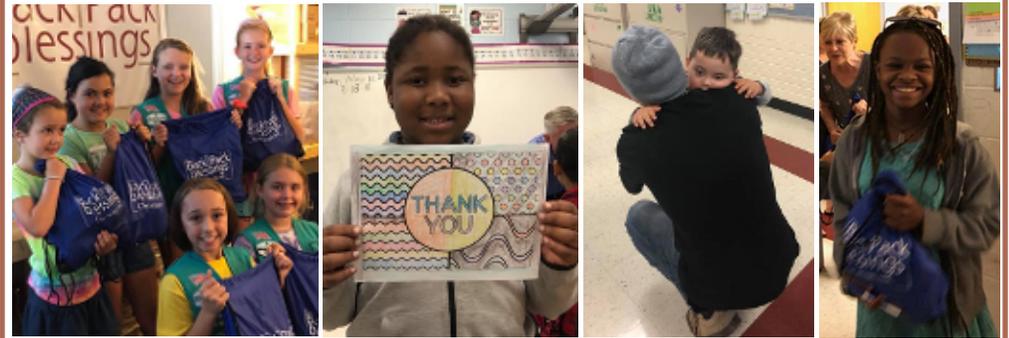
The kids would like to have rice, as well, but that presents perishability issues that are currently beyond our capabilities.

Fair Oaks Elementary is a 90 - 90 - 90 school, meaning that at least:

- 90% of the students qualify for free or reduced school lunch
- 90% of students are minority
- 90% of the students are successful on standardized assessments

Back Pack Blessings recently exhibited at the Fair Oaks Elementary Open House . As we were talking with students and their families, one of the Moms profusely thanked us for the back packs because her two older children had attended Fair Oaks at a time when her family really needed the food assistance. She slipped something to Tony Palermo, who pocketed it without even looking. When Tony later looked in his pocket, he was amazed to see a \$50 bill!

What better evidence is there of the value of Back Pack Blessings than this Mom, who could ill afford such a generous donation, but who wanted to make sure other families would also have the back packs in their lives!



## WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

*OUR FINANCIAL RESERVES ARE AT HISTORIC LOWS*

Won't you PLEASE donate this Holiday Season?

**\$300 sponsors 1 student per year**

Checks to: Back Pack Blessings  
4385 Lower Roswell Rd  
Marietta, GA 30068

On-Line: [backpackblessings.org](http://backpackblessings.org)  
Facebook: Back Pack Blessings, Inc.

You can also support Back Pack Blessings by:

Choose Back Pack Blessings as your charitable designee when shopping at Kroger or on Amazon Smiles -- be sure to renew your selection each year!!!

All donations are 100% tax deductible