



BACK TO SCHOOL NEWSLETTER | Issue 5 | Date: August 14, 2020

www.backpackblessings.org

TONY'S CORNER

Since early March, Back Pack Blessings lost access to the children that we serve at Fair Oaks Elementary, Acworth Elementary, and the Salvation Army's after school program, because schools were closed and no one was allowed on school property. We were very quickly transitioned from serving individual children to assisting in serving families in the Fair Oaks community. This was only made possible by partnering with Mosaic Church (located very close to the school) as well as several agencies.

We started collecting food, diapers, and personal hygiene products at the Cagle House. Once again, Mt. Bethel and Back Pack Blessings volunteers rose to the occasion and donated massive amounts of supplies. Each week we deliver those supplies to the Mosaic Church to include in their distribution to families in the area.

Other steps we have taken include:

- Arranging several large deliveries of food from our food service company to Mosaic for distribution.
- Working with a contact at Borden's has resulted in 500 - 600 gallons of milk delivered to our distribution point each week through at least August.

On Thursdays, we have assisted Mosaic Church in supplying fresh vegetables, fruit, protein, canned and pre-packaged goods to approximately 700 families.

We are so blessed to have such generous partners and to be associated with Mosaic Church and their staff.

The big question is "What's Next"? As you can imagine, this is a difficult and complex question. Right now, we are in a holding pattern and will have to take our direction from the schools we serve. It is important that we stick to our core mission of demonstrating the love of Christ by providing food on a consistent basis directly to individual students. We are in constant contact with the Fair Oaks Principal but we will remain in this holding pattern until we get clear direction and safe access to the children. We will be notifying you, our faithful volunteers and partners, as soon as we have a revised direction.

Patience is not a virtue that comes easily to me, but I am reminded by my team that "God is good all the time and all the time God is good"! So, we will be patient and continue to assist to the best of our abilities as we pray for our schools, students, teachers, administrators, & volunteers. THANKS to all who have donated & God Bless! Tony Palermo

SUMMER CLEANING

Thanks to Jerry Uffner for coordinating the annual Back Pack Blessings clean up on June 27, 2020. Thanks also to the volunteers who came out to the Cagle House to scrub, clean, paint, and mortar!!!



Ecclesiastes 3:1

**There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity
under the heavens**

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

PRINCIPAL VIEWS

Dean Yoder, Fair Oaks Principal:

It isn't easy to put into words how this simple weekly gesture goes far beyond a child's basic need to eat. It fills the student's heart with a warmth of knowing that their needs are being cared for by people they may never meet. That, in this world, there are people that no matter their circumstances, are providing their time and heart to a child they may never meet.

Back Pack Blessings has touched and changed more lives in the simplest of ways..... we may never know the extent of how this program has and continues to change the lives of our students.



Cindy Szwec, Former Fair Oaks Elementary Principal

To sum up the partnership we have with Back Pack Blessings, it is JOY! There is complete joy in our children, there is joy in our staff, there is joy in our parents, and we see the joy in the volunteers that come to serve us. And for that joy you bring to us, from my heart, THANK YOU!

THE SCOOP FROM STACY

Typically, this time of year, we are in the throes of "Back to School" and gearing up for Back Pack Blessings first week of the school year. Unfortunately, that is not the case this year. With Cobb County Schools starting the school year with virtual learning, we will be delaying the kick off of our 10th year of Back Pack Blessings.

From the onset of COVID-19, Back Pack Blessings has continued to support the efforts of providing food to the students at Fair Oaks through the Fair Oaks Pantry. We immediately had to pivot, and though our operation has changed, our mission has not. This could not have been done without the amazing support of our Donors and Volunteers! Not a week has passed without the outpouring of donations, volunteers wanting to help, and emails of support. This has truly guided us during this unprecedented time.

We have an amazing partner in Dean Yoder, Principal at Fair Oaks and we are in contact with him on a weekly basis. His love for the students, their families and community is unbelievable and his relentless passion has been a sight to behold. We will continue to support the Pantry until school is back with in-person learning. Once that begins, we will need a couple of weeks to gear up operations for packing back packs. We will follow all CDC guidelines and require masks and social distancing, which will likely mean fewer volunteers in the Cagle House at one time. We will also have to follow the rules put into place by the Cobb County Board of Education for delivery of the back packs, so more to come! I personally want to THANK each one of you for your love and support of Back Pack Blessings. I have missed you all and can't wait to get back to the fellowship and joy we share.

Stacy Ronai

Follow Us!



Back Pack Blessings Inc.



Back Pack Blessings Admin

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT!



\$300 sponsors 1 student per year

On-Line: backpackblessings.org
 Facebook: Back Pack Blessings, Inc.

PANTRY NEEDS: Donations to Cagle House (4835 Lower Roswell Road)

Oatmeal	Rice	Beans	Ramen Noodles
Mac & Cheese	Instant Potatoes	Cereal Bars	Fruit Cups
Soup	Canned Veggies	Canned Meat & Tuna	Baby Food
Diapers	Formula	Tooth Paste & Brushes	Soap & Shampoo