

Date

Name

Address 1

Address 2

City, State Zip

Dear Mr./Ms. Name,

Thank you very much for your interest in learning more about Blessings in a Backpack (BIB) and our work to provide hunger-free weekends to children living with food insecurity.

When school dismisses on Fridays across America, nearly 16-million children leave their classroom, uncertain whether they will have enough food to eat that weekend. One in five American children face food insecurity —more than the populations of New York City, Los Angeles and Chicago combined. During the school week, most of these children depend on the federal free and reduced meal program their school offers. Sometimes, the meals at school are the only ones they get. When the school closes it doors on Friday afternoon, many of these children go home to empty cupboards for 65-hours until they return to school on Monday morning. **Who will feed them this weekend?**

**We will.** Blessings in a Backpack began when a teacher realized her students were coming to school on Monday mornings hungry and unable to focus. She began sending home bags of weekend nutrition with her students on Fridays. Quickly, other teachers and concerned community members joined her efforts as they saw the impact these bags of food had on children. In 2008, Blessings in a Backpack was founded in Louisville, Kentucky with the mission to mobilize communities, individuals, and resources to provide food on the weekends for elementary school children across America who might otherwise go hungry.

Since then, Blessings in a Backpack has grown at an extremely rapid rate. During the 2015-2016 school year, in partnership with thousands of volunteers across the country, BIB provided more than 3.2 million hunger-free weekends to nearly 88,000 children in 48 states and Washington, D.C. Each of BIB’s 900+ program sites are led by passionate volunteers who — with support from BIB’s national office — secure food, fill, and distribute bags of weekend nutrition on Fridays to children who receive free or reduced price meals during the school week. In the greater xxx region, xxx,xxx children face food insecurity every day. Blessings in a Backpack is providing weekend nutrition to nearly x,xxx of these children at xx schools and expanding at a rate of approximately xxx children each school year.

When these bags of food go home with children, the food does more than ease hunger pangs. Consistent childhood nutrition leads to improved health, increased positive behavior, better test scores, superior reading skills, and increased attendance. Blessings in a Backpack partnered with Quaker Oats and Ipsos, a global market research company, to develop a national evaluation program that measures program impact on a deeper level than bags of food distributed. The evaluation project found that, in addition to no longer feeling weekend hunger pangs, children fed by BIB experience the following positive results:

* 78% feel cared for by their community.
* 71% feel they are helping their family.
* 60% have fewer behavioral issues.
* 59% find it easier to learn at school.

With only eight years as a nonprofit, Blessings in a Backpack’s work is just beginning. As a leader in the movement to alleviate childhood hunger, Blessings in a Backpack strives to ensure children do not go hungry on the weekends. By empowering individuals and communities to take action, we aim to make 17.5 hunger-free weekends a reality for 500,000 children by 2020. We ask you to join us in the fight to feed the future of America.

If you have any questions about the childhood hunger epidemic or Blessings in a Backpack’s work, please contact me at Email@address.com or (123) 456.7890.

With Gratitude,

Name