

# 2014 ANNUAL REPORT



# Blessings in a Backpack

#### A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO & BOARD CHAIR

Fiscal Year 2014 has been a phenomenal year for Blessings in a Backpack. Thousands of additional children are now receiving weekend food due to the tremendous group of supporters, volunteers and partners that have allowed us to continue Feeding the Future of America, One School at a Time.

By the end of the 2013-2014 school year, more than 67,000 children attending 650+ schools in 43 states and Washington, D.C. received weekend nutrition from Blessings and its thousands of dedicated volunteers and supporters. This is a 12.5% increase from the previous year, and the number of program sites also grew by 21%. This growth also allowed us to expand our geographical reach with the addition of one new state and Washington, D.C.

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Organizationally, during Fiscal Year 2014, Blessings focused on stabilizing its core structure and operations to support the organization's growth. Using feedback from volunteers, volunteer support services were improved through increased fundraising support, expanded food vendor partnerships and our first regional volunteer event. Unique media opportunities have enhanced the organization's visibility. In September 2013, Blessings co-hosted a hunger awareness event with The U.S. Department of Education and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and White House Chef Sam Kass, among others. And our funding base has become more diversified as corporations, foundations and community members join our team.

We are thrilled with our progress during the 2013-2014 school year, and we are motivated by the passion and dedication of our volunteers, donors and partners. Unfortunately, the need for our work is still great. Nearly 16 million children in the United States live in food insecure households. Each week, more concerned citizens like yourself contact us, asking how they can help feed the future of America. Fewer children are feeling hunger pangs on the weekend. We look ahead into the future, and we are excited for what it holds for Blessings and the thousands of children we feed.

Thank you for your continued support. Together, we are feeding the future of America.



**Brooke Wiseman**Chief Executive Officer



Ramona Ustian
Chair. Board of Directors

# Blessings in a Backpack

#### MISSION

Blessings in a Backpack mobilizes communities, individuals and resources to provide food on the weekends for elementary school children across America who might otherwise go hungry.

#### VISION

Every school-aged child in America has the nourishment needed to learn and grow. As a leader in the movement to end childhood hunger Blessings in a Backpack strives to ensure children don't go hungry on the weekends by empowering individuals and communities to take action.

#### HISTORY

Blessings in a Backpack was piloted in 2005 in Louisville, KY when a concerned schoolteacher brought the issue of weekend hunger to a local philanthropist. The first school started with 50 children, and the program continued to grow organically from there. In 2008, Blessings in a Backpack became an official 501 (c)3 organization.





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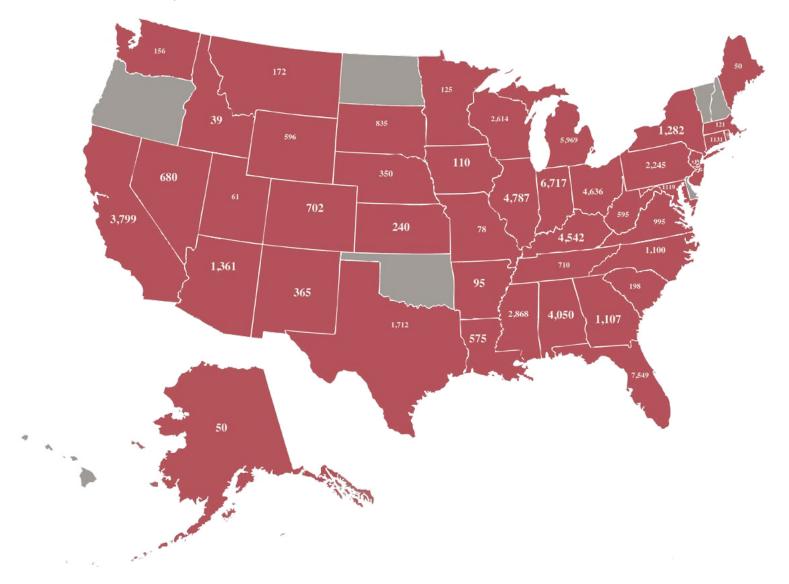
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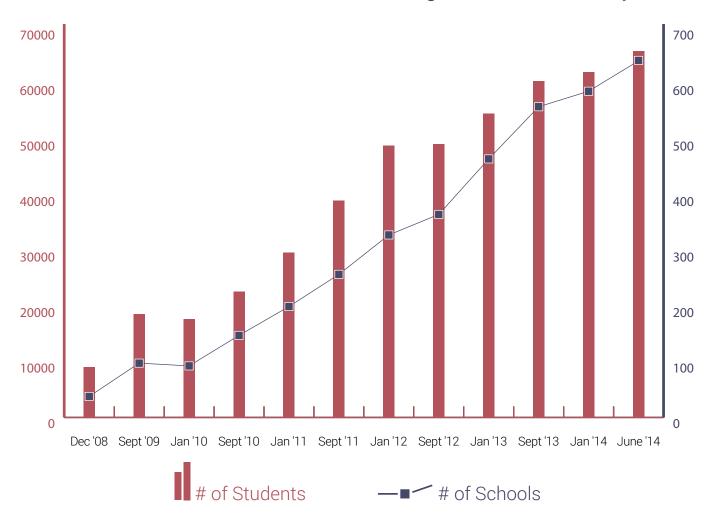


In 2014 Blessings in a Backpack provided weekend meals for 67,571 children in 43 states and the District of Columbia.



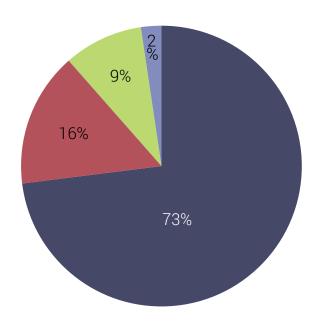


Since Blessings in a Backpack was given 501(c) 3 status in 2008, we have increased the number of children we are feeding in the United States by 649%.

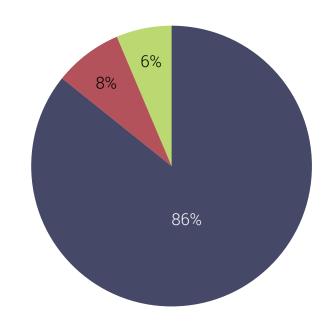


In FY 2014, 2.6 million backpacks of food went home with children in the U.S. That's 7.8 million pounds of food!









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	Program Services	\$4,329,204
	General & Admin	\$407,296
	Fundraising	\$314,990
	Total Expenses	\$5,051,490
	Increase in Net Assets	\$1,534,383*
	Ending Net Assets	\$5,485,143

A full copy of our GAAP audited financial statement is available by request.



# NEARLY \$3 MILLION FREE

Blessings in a Backpack received nearly \$3 million in free publicity in FY2014, based on types of media placements and their corresponding audience members.









### CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

# The Hiami Herald



The Atlanta
JournalConstitution





#### DONATIONS



### Blessings in a Backpack wishes to extend a special **THANK YOU** to the following donors and all of our donors who supported us in FY 2014.

#### \$100.000 and above

Alex and Ani The Jim and Tabitha Furyk Foundation
CBS Corporation Mars Overseas Holding, Inc.

Cigna Foundation

Jason Dufner's Charitable Foundation

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#### \$50.000 - \$99.999

The Bobby Nichols-Fiddlesticks
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#### \$25,000 - \$49,999

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Barrington Children's Charities

Blue Sky Foundation

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#### DONATIONS



# Blessings in a Backpack wishes to extend a special **THANK YOU** to the following donors and all of our donors who supported us in FY 2014.

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VMWare Foundation

The Young Women's League

Yes to Carrots Seed Fund, Inc.

#### DONATIONS



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#### \$5.000 - \$9.999

Adecco Group Services

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Presbyterian Women of Hunter





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SAC Capital Advisors LP
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Toyota of Louisville
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Blessings in a Backpack wishes to extend a special **THANK YOU** to the following In-Kind donors and all of our donors who supported us in FY 2014.

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Blessings in a Backpack wishes to extend a special **THANK YOU** to the following event sponsors who supported us in FY 2014.

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Humana Vitality

\$25,000 - \$49,999

Cigna Foundation

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