



Sandusky Presbyterian Church – Feeding Kids in Need

Last fall, [Sandusky Presbyterian Church](#) began distributing food to children in [Sandusky Elementary School](#) through [Eastern Michigan Food Bank's Backpack program](#). As a church, we were looking to expand our mission outside our walls, and bringing the food backpack program into our local school fit the bill.

Our volunteers first worked with the Board of Education to get approval to implement the program. Backpack program coordinators from neighboring school districts shared their wisdom with us. The school sent home flyers with eligible students, and soon we had 24 kids enrolled. Our community's financial support was such that we were able to double the number of children served to 48 in just a few months.

\$100 provides food every weekend of the school year for one elementary school child. Children who qualify for the free/reduced school lunch program are eligible. With some teacher input, the school was able to direct our efforts towards the kids most in need. On Fridays, our Sandusky Presbyterian Church volunteers deliver grocery bags packed with 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners, and snacks to the classrooms for the kids to take home. They pack the bags every 2 weeks, when the Food Bank truck makes its delivery.

48% of students in our district fall into the category of "economically disadvantaged". Kids who suffer food insecurity at home also have trouble learning and focusing in school. They are likely to end up in the same conditions as their parents, unless someone helps break the cycle. Our volunteers are working to do just that: take care of the least of these, feed the hungry, and nurture and love those whom Christ explicitly singled out and called to himself.



Sandusky Presbyterian feels such a powerful presence of the Holy Spirit in this mission that we are being driven forward to keep fundraising, with the goal of expanding to provide the Jr./Sr. High School with a food pantry. The elementary students will grow up, but they will not grow out of their need. We are confident the Lord is in this ministry and will provide, through the generosity of our community. We are a small congregation, but we are determined to make a big impact!

For more on the Backpack Program visit: www.fbem.org/programs/backpack-program/ or contact [Sandusky Presbyterian Church](#). We'd love to share with you how we do it!