



Feed a child a little hope, right here in Brookings

In a small city like Brookings, hunger isn't always in plain sight. The suffering of the hungry child, like that of the hungry parent or elder, is all too often hidden and silent, seemingly removed from "the rest of us." So we can understand when some Brookings residents express surprise that a project like BBP is necessary.

But just ask the Harvest Table. Just ask the Brookings Food Pantry. Just ask Project Joy, and the Family Back 2 School Project. Volunteers with these organizations, as well as the teachers and staff in our schools, are fully aware that many of our neighbors are struggling. They are not "others" living among those of us who have plenty—or who at least have enough. They are not just *with us*. They *are us*. The hungry child is *our child*—part of the extended family we call community.

BBP offers our community's hungry children sustenance. We serve it up with tender care and genuine respect. We feed our children hope, one child at a time. *Won't you help us?*

"I tell you the truth,
whatever you did
for one of the least
of these . . .
you did for me."

—Matt. 25:40 (NIV)

About the Brookings Backpack Project

BBP was founded in 2009 by the Brookings United Church of Christ with the enthusiastic support of the Brookings Public Schools and Brookings Head Start. Working with school staff and our many community partners, we assist children and youth who may not have enough to eat at home by providing them with easy-to-prepare weekend meals and snacks during the academic year. By helping to sustain these students until school resumes, we not only serve their nutritional needs but also promote their physical, cognitive and social development, and enhance their overall sense of well-being. We offer this service at no charge.



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You can make a real difference

Your generous gift, of whatever size, will help sustain a child physically and emotionally, as well as academically. Teachers and school staff around the country who are involved in programs like BBP report that participating students attend school more regularly, exhibit less anxiety and depression, pay attention longer, concentrate harder and perform better academically than they did previously. They also describe the children's joy in receiving their supply of food at the end of each school week—and, unfortunately, their heartbreak when there's no food to be had, due to a lack of program resources.

Sponsor a child

There are many ways you can help BBP, from volunteering to spreading the word about our efforts. However, funding is our most critical need. Currently, almost 100% of every dollar donated goes directly toward the purchase of groceries.

Please consider sponsoring a child in BBP. Your gift of only **\$4** will feed that child for an entire weekend. Your gift of **\$16**, for an entire month. Your gift of **\$150**, for the entire 2010-2011 school year.

To make a tax-deductible donation by check, please make it payable to "Brookings United Church of Christ—BBP". Send your contribution to BBP, 828 8th St. South, Brookings, SD 57006. If you have questions or suggestions, please call us at 605-697-2882.

To make an online donation, visit www.brookingsbackpackproject.org. While there you can also learn about how to become a volunteer and explore other ways you might help BBP fulfill its mission.

We and the children thank you in advance for your generosity.

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