

**UNITED WAY OF THE OHIO VALLEY  
UNION COUNTY  
PARTNER AGENCY: UNION COUNTY HAPPY PACK, INC.**

Each fall when school begins Happy Pack board members contact the Family Resource teachers at each of our five schools, and ask them to select the children who will be eligible to receive the bags of food each weekend for the entire school year. It takes about 3 weeks for the school to process the parent permission forms, which means we have a short delay before getting the first food bags out to children in August. This year one first grade teacher received a request letter each week from a father asking when Happy Pack bags would be given to his children. It was a very emotional appeal from a caring parent who was desperate to keep his family fed, and his children had been on the program the previous year. He knew what a difference each bag containing 6 meals meant to his family. This family is one of the neediest of our participants. There are 7 school-age children living in the home, along with 3 adults. This cry for "HELP" was relayed to our team members, and we all responded in a positive manner. First, the classroom teacher went to the grocery store and bought food for that family immediately, and delivered it herself. Second, we asked the family resource teacher to go ahead and give bags to any children who were still in that school who were on the program the previous year - without waiting for new permission slips. Third, Happy Pack board members drove to the Evansville Food Bank location and picked up enough food bags to make it through each week's estimated needs, and they did this for three weeks before the food bank truck could come to Union County to make a delivery. That simple letter - written by a loving father - prompted all of us to "go the second mile" and get food to the children of our county. This truly made us all realize this food is critical, and no administrative process should delay our children of being fed as soon as school begins.

**WHAT DIFFERENCE WILL YOUR INVESTMENT MAKE?**

With your investment of \$50 **Union County Happy Pack, Inc.** can:

- Provide 8-9 bags of food for children on the program
  - Containing enough items to cover two breakfasts
  - Two lunches
  - Two dinners
  - A couple of snacks
- Provide almost two meat boxes for a family of seven children in the program

