



United Way of the Ohio Valley

Union County Happy Pack Case Story



Union County Happy Pack, Inc. began as a weekend backpack program for food insecure children at Sturgis Elementary in the fall of 2008. Happy Pack provided 30 bags of food for distribution that first month. As we complete our twelfth year of service, Happy Pack currently offers 275 bags per week that includes children from all schools in our county. Happy Pack is the only program in our county providing this service and is done with all volunteers. During our twelve years, we have feed approximately 3000 children and have impacted several hundred families in our county. In 2019, Happy Pack provided approximately 8000 bags of food to the children in our community.

In addition to the weekly Happy Pack bag, each family will receive a food voucher four times per year to purchase groceries during extended school breaks. Happy Pack has partnered with the local grocery stores to provide this service and to accept the food vouchers. The dollar amount of the food vouchers are tiered based on the number of school children the family has. In December 2019, Happy Pack provided 129 food vouchers to the families at a cost of \$5,941.

Happy Pack also provides our Family Resource Personnel (FRYSC) at each school with a \$500 prepaid credit card twice a year to help families with unexpected food needs. These credit cards allow the Family Resource Personnel to provide groceries for the families that have an emergency need.

How Dollars Help Our Clients



\$100

An extra \$100 would provide one bag of food to 15 children for one week.

\$500

\$500 would allow Happy Packs to increase the prepaid credit cards to \$550 per semester for each of the Family Resource Personnel to use for food purchases.

\$1,000

\$1000 could increase the food vouchers by \$7.75 per family during one of the extended school breaks.