FEEDING SUCCESS.
FUELING MINDS.
When I first walked through the doors of BackPack Central in July of 2016, I instantly fell in love. The remnants of food packs in colorful bins resting on pallets and disheveled papers and supplies laying on tables told the story of the incredible work that had just been completed. But a few boxes of food remained and the rest of the warehouse was barren. This was the picture of purpose. It meant that FOCP had done its job, and what remained was the quiet confirmation that over 900 students had received food when they otherwise may not have.

Knowing what I did of FOCP, I was prepared for what I expected to be a rewarding and wild ride. The direction was set and the speed was predetermined. What I did not know, was just how quickly that ride would take me to where we are today, wrapping up our seventh school year of doing what we do best...feeding hungry tummies during out of school hours. Some say that slow and steady wins the race. I’d say that swift and stable has served us well.

September of 2016 marked many new endeavors for FOCP. It was the first full school year serving all fifteen public elementary schools within our service area. Having added the Lake Crystal community to our services the previous spring, we now had to ramp up our volunteer efforts to sustain our growth.

When gearing up for the school year, we forged a new partnership with a custom food house. This new entity not only provided healthy food options that we were unable to acquire though our traditional networks, but ultimately attributed to a cost savings of just over $36,000 by year-end. Saving on food costs allowed us to think bigger and broader. Knowing that hunger does not end beyond the confines of elementary school walls, we piloted a new program aimed at meeting the unique hunger needs of the middle school population. In January of 2017, the Power Pack Program served 23 students at Dakota Meadows Middle School and assured that 6-8 grade students had access to adequate nutrition as well.

Spring brought fresh perspective and new ideas. In an effort to welcome the broader community into our warehouse space to gain a greater understanding of our work to alleviate youth hunger, we hosted a new fundraising event at our location titled “Beer, Brats and Bourbon for BackPack”. The event attracted 300 people and raised $35,000 to support our continued efforts to provide youth with the basic fuel they need to be successful in school, activities and life.

As we complete yet another year of serving this mission, I’m reminded of how truly humbling this work is. It is not completed as a solo act by the hands of our small team of five alone. It is completed in partnership with over 1,319 volunteers contributing 2,893 hours of service. Though we’ve made major strides, we know our work is not done. If we want to see our greater communities as places where youth do not endure hunger, FOCP’s existence is vital.

As we forge ahead, please accept my gratitude for all you may already be doing to assist us in this work and know that the invitation is standing for future involvement. A wise person once told me “Work smarter, not harder.” If you’d like to see what this looks like, I invite you to BackPack Central to engage in a way that creates direct and lasting impact.

We cannot do this work without the donors, volunteers and advocates that we consider friends.

Thank you for joining us in this mission and for sharing your heart.

Hugs and High-Fives,

Sheri Sander-Silva
Executive Director
Engaging our community in solving youth hunger.

Board of Directors
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Kristee Richards, Vice Chair
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Carly Ryan
Program Coordinator
Angela Sargent
Program Coordinator

Interns
Emily Geiger
Programming Fall 2016
Carly Ryan
Programming Fall 2016
Riley Devenport
Communications Fall 2016
Programming Spring 2017
Aljexi Collett
Programming Spring 2017
Amber Born
Administrative Spring 2017
Leah Beringer
Communications Summer 2016
Cloé Thelemann
Communications Spring 2017

“It is in your hands to create a better world for all who live in it.”
-Nelson Mandela
DAY 1 MENU – Menu BP 4 (warm weather)

Breakfast
1 Instant Oatmeal. Add hot water to oatmeal in bowl, stir. Ask an adult to help you with the water.
1 Berry Applesauce

Morning Snack
1 Dried Fruit Mix

Lunch
1 Ravioli Follow the directions on the packet. Ask an adult to help you.
1 Cheese Stick
1 package of Pretzels
Feeding hungry tummies on weekends to allow for hungry minds on Monday mornings.

19% of the population of Blue Earth county lives below the poverty level.

AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE
2 Adults and 3 Children

81% of participant families earn less than $40,000 a year.

Family Financial Hardships:
- 38% Cost of Housing
- 28% Low Wages
- 10% Medical Bills
- 9% Unemployment or Underemployment
- 7% Change in family structure

76% of the families we serve utilize our services for 2 years or less.

2016 - 2017:
- 880 Enrolled Students
- 15 Elementary Schools
- 1 Middle School
- 186,627 Meals Served
LET KIDS BE KIDS
The Power Pack Program addresses the complex needs of middle school students who may require an additional boost of nutrition and energy to sustain them after school and between extra-curricular activities. Power Packs may also be used to help alleviate hunger on weekends.

FOCP programs are offered free of cost to participating families. These programs provide youth with the basic fuel they need to be successful in school, activities and life.

**BackPack Food Program**

*est. 2010*

*Serving 15 Elementary Schools*

Funded by grants and community donations, the BackPack Food Program provides child-friendly, well-balanced meals for weekends and school breaks. Food packs are given to the student’s teachers every week to be discreetly placed into the child’s backpack before they leave school.

**Power Pack Program**

*est. 2017*

*Serving 2 Middle Schools*

The Power Pack Program addresses the complex needs of middle school students who may require an additional boost of nutrition and energy to sustain them after school and between extra-curricular activities. Power Packs may also be used to help alleviate hunger on weekends.
IT TAKES A VILLAGE
VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are essential to our work. Without the gracious support of companies, organizations, individuals, schools and teachers we would not be able to complete our work.

2016 - 2017:

1,319
FOCP VOLUNTEERS

2,893
VOLUNTEER HOURS

1. PURCHASE FOOD
FOCP purchases food items at discount rates thru suppliers

2. PACKAGE FOOD
Volunteers pack food into bags for students

3. DISTRIBUTE FOOD
Volunteers load and deliver food packs to schools

4. DELIVER FOOD
Volunteers deliver food packs to classrooms

5. TEACHER DISTRIBUTES
While students are away, teachers discreetly place bags in backpacks

6. FOOD GOES HOME
Students now have adequate food for weekends and school breaks

“Getting the BackPack food bags makes me happy because if I didn’t get them, I wouldn’t have any food. I like them because they last me all weekend.

Thank you for giving me food!”  
-Eagle Lake 3rd Grader
LAUREN’S STORY
For five years I have held my own annual fundraiser for BackPack. I started my Treat Stand in kindergarten, but in sixth grade I decided that I wanted all of the money raised to go to the BackPack Food Program. I chose BackPack because of its focus on helping local children. It is vital that all children are provided equal opportunities to develop into the best version of themselves that they can be. This isn’t possible if they are struggling in school because of an empty tummy.

Once I made the decision to donate to BackPack, the outstanding results of my fundraiser truly came from the community. The generosity and appreciation that our community shows to BackPack is inspiring. I could write an entire essay detailing the countless interactions of people sharing their praise for the work of this program at my Treat Stand.

Because of BackPack, kids are able to focus on their futures and know that their community supports them. I am honored to help BackPack achieve this goal.

Lauren Senden

DONORS

DISTRICT LEVEL PARTNERS
$10,000+
Consolidated Communications Community Fund
Greater Mankato Area United Way
L & N Andreas Foundation
Joy in Childhood Foundation
Otto Bremer Trust

SCHOOL LEVEL PARTNERS
$5,000 - $9,999
Crystal Valley Cooperative
Kaye Corporation
Integrated Business Experience, MNSU
Mankato Clinic
Mayo Clinic Health System
Medica Foundation
Ridley Inc.
Scheels
United Prairie Bank

CLASSROOM LEVEL PARTNERS
$2,500 - $4,999
Bassett, William (Gifts made In Memory of)
CHS
City of Mankato
Coldwell Banker Commercial Fisher Group
Hilltop United Methodist Church
Messiah Lutheran Church
MTU Onsite Energy Employees
Tailwind Group
Taylor Corporation
United Prairie Bank - Denim for Dollars
VanRoekel, Steve & Melanie
Walmart Foundation

SMALL GROUP LEVEL PARTNERS
$720 - $2,499
Alaska Insulation Supply
Ardent Mills, LLC
Ashland, Ryan & Kristin Thompson
Benco Electric
Blethen Gage & Krause, PLLP
Buhs, Chad & Elaine
CENTURY 21 Landmark Realtors, LLC
Central Farm Services
City of North Mankato
Davis, Bradley & Connie
Delta Kappa Gamma Nu Chapter
Downs Food Group
Emerald Travel & Cruises, Inc.
Exclusively Diamonds
Gold Star Shows, Inc.
Heather Curling Club
Hermel, Dave & Darcy
Hilltop Florist
Imperial Plastics, Inc.
Jones Page Jacobson Family Foundation
K & G Gymnastics, LLC
Kearney, Jane & Michael

LINE LEADER PARTNERS
$360 - $719
Aanenson, Erin & Jamie
Alliance Contracting
AM Exchange of Mankato
Angie’s BOOMCHICKAPOP
Bigbee, Gale & Kevin
Bittner, Andrew & Mary
Blethen, Peter & Nancy
Borth, Diane & Jerome
Bremer Insurance
Brennan, Cathy & Mike
Cardamone-Rayner, Mark & Amy
Carpenter, Carma & Chris
Christie, Chris
Citizens Community Federal N.A.
Corbett, Brian & Julia
Corley, Jolly & Chris
Corporate Graphics International
Craig, Julia & Lawrence Nicol...
D'Angelo, Jamie & Gino
Daufenbach Dental Studios
Davis, Landon & Leah
Deckr, James
Duncanson, Patrick & Kristin Weeks-Duncanson
Donkin' Donuts
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Mankato
First Presbyterian Church, Amboy
Flitter, Ashley & Chad
Forstner, Brooke
Frost, Charles & Diane Hunter
Gerdts, Daniel & Amanda
Good Thunder Fire Department
Gordon, Don & Kathryn
Grace Lutheran Church, Mankato
Hallam, Connie
Harrington, Michael & Patricia
Hemish, Rhea & Reed
Hinsch, Belynda & Heath
Hollrich, Sandra
Hughes, Gail & Gregory
JBeal Real Estate Group
Johnson, Todd & Mary
Jones, Jennifer & David
Jones Metal Products
Just, Bryan
Kall, Jay & Kristy
Kawlewski, Suzette
Kiwanis Club of Mankato Downtown
Kuehl, Ryan
Langworthy, Bernard & Delilia
Larson, Larry & Marcia
Literovich, Ronald & Kim
Lloyd, Kevin & Laurie
Lloyd, Michael & Wanda
Luther Mankato Honda
Mages, Matthew & Sarah
Makela, Darla & Bob
Mankato Ford
Mead, David & Lynda
Melby, Carmen & Scott
McGowan, Jack & Diann
Meyer, Paul & Dee Ann
Midtown Tavern
Miller, Don
Minnesota Lake Fire Department
Nessler, Andy & Christine
Neushwander-Frink, Wilbur & Brian Frink
Oberle, James & Monica
Olson, Reid
Pathstone Aktion Club
Peterson, Darren
Petrie, Carolyn & Arthur
Phillips, Jeannette
Pierce, James & Rebecca
Pomranke, Connie & Daryle
Pratt, Bryan
Preston, Jean & Robert
Reuter, Holly
Ries, Leah & Barry
Robbins, Mark & Jo Marie
Rogers, Patrick & Molly Madden

Rothfork, John & Dianne
Sandee, Wayne & Carol
Serrill, Charles & Beth
Shaikoski, Tony & Emilee
Smasal, Jared & Jessica
Smith, Anne
Solo, Harry & Evelyn
Starr Cycle
Star Trailer Sales, Inc.
Steinbach, Sara & Ethan
Sween, Marilyn
Tire Associates Warehouse
Total Dental Concepts
Trio, John & Marla
United Church of Mapleton
Vanoverbeke, Stacie
Venem, Mark & Sara
Vermillion, Leslie & John
Verizon Wireless
Vosburg, DeeDra & Steven
Wall, Jolene & Thomas
Wamma, Metone & Mary Wagner
Wells Fargo
White, Kenneth & Pamela
Xcel Energy

**IN-KIND GOODS & SERVICES**
38th St. Photography
Angie's BOOMCHICKAPOP
B. Stark, Inc.
Benson, Shannon
Bent Paddle Brewing Co.
Bent River Outfitter
Blue Earth Taxi
Brew-N-Wine Creations
Buhs, Chad & Elaine
Christensen, Patty
City of North Mankato
Collett, Chad & Carolyn
Consolidated Communications
Coughlan Companies, Inc.
Culligan of Mankato
Culver's
DeGrood's Homestore
Delta Kappa Gamma Nu Chapter
Dempster, Julie
Dotson Iron Casting
Drummer's Garden Center & Floral
Future Holdings, LLC
High Spirits Liquor
Hy-Vee Stores
Imperial Plastics
J. Long’s & Kato Clothing
Kwik Trip
Label Works
Locher Brothers, Inc.
Mankato Brewery
McDonald's
Midtown Tavern
Minnesota Corrugated Box, Inc.
Navitor
New Bohemia

*We try our hardest to be accurate. If you notice an error, please contact us so we may correct.*
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
for fiscal year end of June 30, 2016

Liabilities and Net Assets

Cash and cash equivalents $279,927 $278,655
Cash restricted for capital purchase - -
Pledges receivable $79,082 $109,129
Beneficial Interest in Mankato Area Foundation $51,260 -
Fixed Assets $74,368 $103,448
Other Assets $8,782 $2,884
Total Assets $493,419 $494,116

Accounts Payable $3,822 $379
Other Current Liabilities $6,193
Total Liabilities $10,015 $379

Net Assets

Unrestricted
Undesignated $408,404 $419,737
Board Designated-operating reserve $75,000 $56,500
Temporarily Restricted - $17,500
Total net assets $483,404 $493,737

Total Liabilities and Net Assets $493,419 $494,116

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
for fiscal year end of June 30, 2016

PUBLIC REVENUE & SUPPORT

$508,460
2017 TOTAL REVENUE

$509,944
2016 TOTAL REVENUE

Foundation, Nonprofits & Local Government
Individuals
Special Events
United Way
Corporations
Donated Facilities, Fees & Services
Goods In-Kind

Feeding Our Communities Partners does not receive any state or federal funding. FOCP is a qualified 501c3 charitable organization. Federal EIN: 27-2374187

Join us in our mission to solve youth hunger by becoming a donor.
Contact: Sheri Sander-Silva: sheri@feedingourcommunitiespartners.org

$518,793
2017 TOTAL EXPENSES

$465,547
2016 TOTAL EXPENSES

Development $60,829 $44,548
Administrative & General $110,998 $91,274
Program Services $346,966 $329,725
These teams ‘stepped up’ and raised $1,000 or more for FOCP!

- Agony of De Feet
- Bring Home The Bacon!
- Cavity Crushers
- CCF Bank
- CENTURY 21 Landmark Realtors
- Coldwell Banker Commercial Fisher Group
- Consolidated Communications
- Cool Climbers
- Cyclone Climbers
- Dakota Dominators
- Derrick Davis
- Donna Read Book Club
- Dotson Stairblazers
- Enthusiastic Energized Eagles
- Franklin Falcons
- Ghosts of D’Angelos’ Past
- Hoover Elementary Huskies
- Huff & Puff Going Up
- Hunger Heros
- Hy-Vee Helpful Smiles
- Hy-Vee Heros
- Hy-Vee High Steppers
- Jefferson Jaguars
- Just Say No - MRE
- KEYC Climbing Team
- LCWM Knights 1
- LCWM Knights 2
- MAD Girls
- Mankato Clinic Team 1
- Mankato Clinic Team 2
- Mankato Clinic Team 3
- MAPS Climbers
- Mayo Clinic Health System
- Minnesota Valley Action Council
- Monroe Mustangs
- Park’s Pumas
- PWMS Hunger Crushers
- Riverbenders
- Roosevelt Raccoons
- Scheels
- Shawna’s She-Rah’s
- Someone Told Us this was a 12-Step Meeting
- Thighs Be Burnin’
- US Bank
- Washington Wildcats
- Work those HIPAAS

**Climb 2 Feed Kids**

Annual Stair Climbing Event
MNSU Taylor Center Bresnan Arena
400+ participants, 50 volunteers

**Beer, Brats and Bourbon**

Annual Fundraising Event
BackPack Central Warehouse
250+ guests

**Winter Break Feed and Read**

Winter Break Distribution
BackPack Central Warehouse
700+ students
Books provided by:
Delta Kappa Gamma Nu
"When students don’t worry about food, they can focus on school. Each year I seem to have a student who wants to know each Friday if they will have food for the weekend. This year was no exception. I feel fortunate that I’m able to dispel the fear of food insufficiency by placing food in their backpack."

- ISD77 Teacher