

Rotary Club of Franklin

Franklin Kentucky

Funds Request

Organization Simpson Co. Backpack program	Contact Person Robin Hollingsworth
	Contact Phone Number 270-223-8092
Amount Requested \$ <u>3,000.00</u>	
<p>Scope of project?</p> <p>The Simpson County Backpack program serves 6 schools in the district and is available to any student enrolled in Pre-K thru 12th grade. Currently the program serves approximately 200 students weekly, it's the most we've served since 2008 when the program first piloted. Three ago in partnership with Hunt Ford, the Simpson County Backpack program started an annual fundraiser, Donate Your Lunch Money held in May each year. The goal is to raise funding to serve at minimum 200 students per week with a bag of food for the weekend when the students are without a school meal. The cost to sponsor one child is \$120.00 for a total of \$24,000.00 to operate the program. Each year the fundraiser generates approximately \$22,000.00. The Backpack program is 100% funded by the community through monetary donations. Community Education partners with Feeding America of Kentucky's Heartland Food Bank, Providence Baptist Church (sponsoring 501c3 since inception), Simpson County Schools, Franklin Rotary, and other community organizations including Hunt Ford, and New Mathers Metal in order to provide the Backpack program to Simpson County children.</p> <p>COVID-19 Note- Unfortunately due to COVID-19 restrictions the Donate Your Lunch Money fundraiser was modified to a virtual event this year. While Community Education and Hunt Ford consider the fundraiser a success we have fallen short of raising the full \$24,000. In years past Community Education requested \$2,000.00. This year Community Education is requesting \$3,000.00 if possible to help with the shortfall of the community fundraiser.</p>	
<p>Who would benefit from this project?</p> <p>Simpson County School district reports 62% of their students qualify for Free & Reduce meals. Of that number 58% qualifies for Free meals. Keep in mind these numbers only represent the students whose parents complete the food service form. This number doesn't include families who didn't qualify and now find themselves struggling financially. The Backpack program helps to remove the barrier of hunger so our students may better focus in the classroom.</p> <p>COVID-19 Note- Due to the continually changing restrictions and guidelines issued by the governor for in school attendance for students delivering the bags weekly is challenging. I wanted to share with you the amazing commitment to the Backpack program and students-- volunteers, family resource/youth service coordinators, and Community Education have and will continue to deliver the backpacks to the doorsteps of every recipient weekly.</p> <p>According to Feeding America's Kentucky Heartland (serves our 42 county area) states 1 in 4</p>	

children may not have any food to eat tonight. Kentucky ranks 17th highest in the nation for food-insecure children under 18 years of age and 4th highest in the nation for poverty in a 2014 survey according to Feeding America.

Club Use only

How does it affect the Rotary Six Areas of Focus	
Promoting Peace	
Fighting Disease	
Providing Clean Water	
Saving Mothers and Children	
Supporting Education	
Growing Local Economies	