

The BackPack Program

2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR REPORT



Shared Harvest Foodbank's signature program to address childhood hunger.

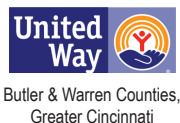
They just don't have enough says Sherese Slaughter Haynes, a family service worker with Butler County Success. She says they are always grateful, thankful to have a hand up as they are working, trying their best to provide just enough.

She is talking about the families of preschoolers who are on the Backpack program, receiving enough food to get their child through the weekend. Sometimes this means that the food meant for one is shared among many siblings. For some, the Backpack program gives that extra amount of food, so rather than skip meals so their kids can eat, parents are confident they can have a meal too.

Who among us wouldn't sacrifice our own comfort to ensure our children had enough? In my family, we had the 'hold back' rule for get togethers – the adult family members would 'hold back' filling their plates until we were sure all the children and other guests had enough to eat. But we knew there was a 'fall back' and there would be food for us, if not at the gathering, at home. When there is no food in the cupboard, the families on our Backpack program don't have this 'fall back' option, only the 'hold back' one because as Sherese says, "...they just don't have enough."

The Backpack program gives these kids just enough to help them thrive, providing the fuel they need to have a chance at success. And as we've seen, these simple bags of food give the parents comfort because there is just enough to get their child through the weekend without an empty belly.

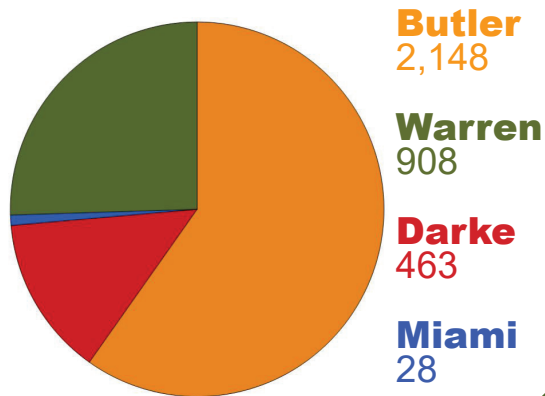
We could not provide the Backpack Program without the support of our community, giving your time, talent and treasure. Please consider helping us distribute tens of thousands of food bags this school year to students right here at home. If you are more hands on, we always need volunteers to help assemble the food bags. If you don't have time, consider a gift: \$5 sponsors one child for the weekend, \$19 sponsors a child for a month and \$150 provides for a child for the school year. Together, we can insure that no child goes to bed hungry, by giving just enough.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tina Osso", written over a horizontal line.

Tina Osso, Executive Director

CHILDREN SERVED WEEKLY BY COUNTY



The student repeatedly thanked me for the food. He often talked about how he didn't have much food and how important it was to him and his siblings.

- LT Ball
Miami County

SCHOOL DISTRICTS SERVED

Fairfield City
Greenville Local
Hamilton City
Edgewood Local
Kings Local
Lakota Local
Lebanon City
Little Miami Local
Madison Local
Middletown City
Monroe City
New Miami Local
Ross Local
Springboro Local
Talawanda Local
Tipp City Local
and
Head Start Programs

*Distributed a total of
96,467 bags of food to
3,547 children over the
2017/18 school year.*



We're not dealing with families that are just looking for handouts all the time. These are working families and they're just trying to do what's best to provide for their families. They're not sleeping on the couch waiting for someone to give them a meal. They're out actually working and doing, but just don't have enough.

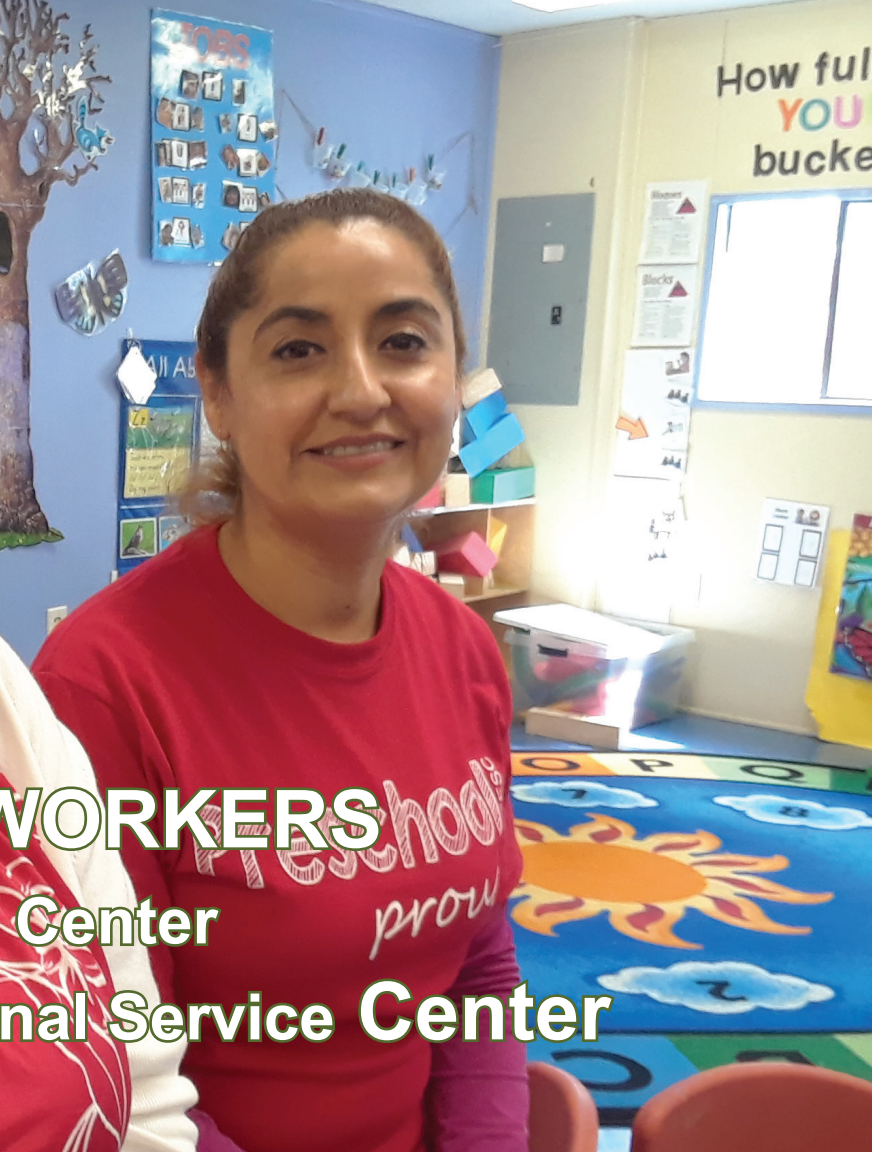
We worry about the families, especially the kids that won't be eating and will be unable to focus and learn. I just would feel sad for them.

Thank you Shared Harvest. We get to see what you do. We get to see the families that need the help receive the help with dignity. Thank you for the way that you provide the meals to help the families over the weekends that really, really need it.

- Sherese Slaughter Haynes



FAMILY SERVICE V
Fairfield Early Learning
Butler County Education



WORKERS

Center

providing

nal Service Center

Because we work with the lowest income families, sometimes parents don't work, so they don't have much means. This is a real help to them because they have many kids so they have many mouths to feed and this alleviates, in a way, what they are suffering.

In many cases, they are very young families so they have three, four, and five kids. Sometimes it's only one of the parents working and that makes it really hard for them to get to the end of the month. That's why I think they really appreciate that kind of help.

If they didn't have this little extra, it would be harder for them. I mean at least they know their children get something (to eat), thanks to Shared Harvest.

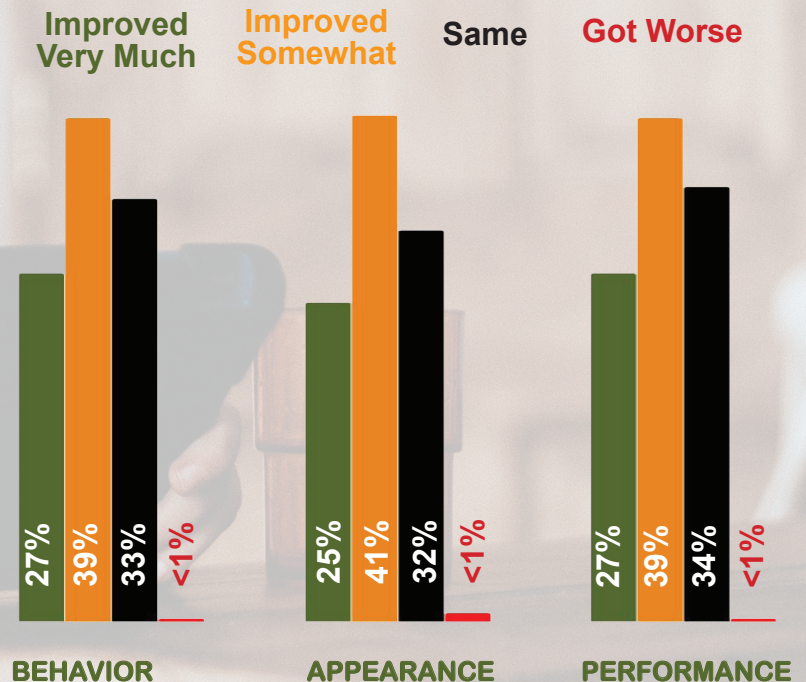
- *Maria Isabella Moraga*



The students who participate really enjoy the program. They look forward to receiving the bags. One student stated, “They really care about me. They give me food each week.”

*Kramer Elementary
Butler County*

STUDENT IMPROVEMENT EVALUATIONS



PLEASE CONSIDER SPONSORING A CHILD FOR THE BACKPACK PROGRAM

Thank you for this! It
is wonderful to know my
students don't go home
hungry on the weekend!

*Butlerville Elementary
Warren County*

-  \$5 sponsors one child
for one weekend
-  \$19 sponsors one child
for one month
-  \$150 sponsors one child
for the year

USE THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE

**Or Visit SharedHarvest.org
Click on "Donate Now"
& Designate BackPack Program**





FOODBANK

**HUNGER IS NOT A CHOICE.
GIVING IS.**

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