



## WEEKEND BACKPACK PROGRAM - FAQ

### *What is the Weekend Backpack Program?*

The Weekend Backpack Program is a partnership between Franklin Public Schools and the Franklin Food Pantry to provide weekend food for kids who might otherwise go hungry. **With enough food to eat, kids have the energy to do better in school, enjoy their friends, and are absent less often.** Overall, they are healthier – physically and emotionally.

### *How do I sign my child up for the Weekend Backpack Program?*

Currently the program is available to all Franklin elementary school and ECDC students. Any parent or guardian can give permission for their child to receive the backpack by completing the sign-up form. **Interested families should contact their child's school to register.** You can sign up at any time during the school year.

### *How much does it cost?*

**This is a free program** for all participating families. Food for the backpacks is provided by the Franklin Food Pantry.

### *What types of food goes in the backpacks?*

The bags are filled with child-friendly foods. Some examples are granola bars, oatmeal, SpaghettiOs, shelf stable milk and Ritz crackers. The backpacks for all students and all schools will be the same.

### *Can students from Franklin middle schools and the high school sign-up?*

At this time, the Program is available only to elementary schools and the ECDC. The plan is to open it up to all students town-wide once additional resources are acquired to operate and fund the program. **Families who are in need of food are encouraged to contact the Franklin Food Pantry for help.** There are other resources available to them outside of the Weekend Backpack Program.

### *How can I support this program?*

- The program **is not funded through the town or school budgets.** The Pantry relies solely on private donations to fund its programs, food budget and operations. **Monetary donations** [can be made online](#) through our website.
- **Volunteers** are needed every week to help pack the backpacks. You can sign up for a packing night using our [sign-up genius](#).

### *Can my child sign up to volunteer for the Backpack Program and get community service hours?*

We are recruiting youth volunteers for the Franklin Food Elves, which offers community service hours. Please [visit our website](#) to learn more. **The Food Elves is now taking sign-ups for the 2019 Campaign.** The Backpack Program is accepting only adult volunteers at this time.

### *How can my company or group get involved?*

The first packing night of each month is corporate/group packing night. Please email Erin Lynch at [erin@franklinfoodpantry.org](mailto:erin@franklinfoodpantry.org) for more information or to sign up.

### *What does a packing night involve?*

We will give you a quick tour of the Pantry before you join your team members to help assemble the bags. Don't worry! We will show you exactly what to do.

***If you have any questions about the Weekend Backpack Program, please email [backpack@franklinfoodpantry.org](mailto:backpack@franklinfoodpantry.org).***

11/14/18