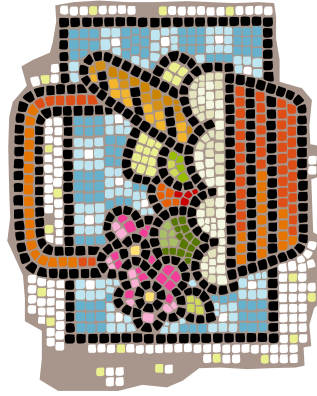


**HOW DOES THIS PROGRAM AFFECT FAMILIES?**

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*At the very first distribution in Carter County, a young mother began to cry when she was handed the backpack. She shared with the Headstart worker that she had no food in her home, and had wondered how she would feed her child over the weekend. The Headstart worker referred her to Hale Community Ministries where she was provided an emergency food box and encouraged to come to Hale Community Ministries monthly for supplemental food.*



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**FOOD FOR KIDS  
MINISTRY**

**BACKPACK PROGRAM**

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BECKY BRUMITT, DIRECTOR

## DID YOU KNOW?

When school's out, many children go hungry. Food insecurity among children in Northeast Tennessee is high. There are 33,749 out of 74,484 children eligible for free and reduced price meals at school or considered economically disadvantaged. This means that 45% of the region's children depend on school meals five days a week to provide nearly half of the food needed to keep them healthy. The Backpack Program is designed to meet the needs of hungry children at times when other resources are not available, such as weekends.\*

\*Information provided by Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee, Inc.

## BACKPACK MINISTRY



Food for Kids—Backpack Program is a collaborative effort between Hale Community Ministries, Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee, area

schools, and volunteers working together to provide emergency food assistance for children in need. Nutritious snacks and easily prepared meal items are distributed in ordinary backpacks to children who are identified by the school or charity as being at risk for hunger.

### HOW DOES THIS PROGRAM WORK?

Presently in Carter County and Johnson Counties, the program is serving 347 children in 12 elementary schools and one Jr. High . Food is obtained by Second Harvest Food Bank and delivered to the volunteer site—Hale Community Ministries. Volunteers from local churches pick up the food, fill the backpacks and deliver them to the school.

The backpacks are then distributed to the parent when they come to the school to pick up their child. Currently, the backpacks are given out the second and fourth Friday of each month. Parents are responsible for returning the backpacks back to the school prior to the next distribution.

### WHAT GOES IN THE BACKPACK?

Nutritious items include pudding cups, applesauce, fruit, canned pasta and soups, canned meat and entrée items, juice boxes, granola bars, and more. In February, Hale Community Ministries added caps, mittens and socks to the backpacks.

### HOW IS THIS PROGRAM FUNDED?

The program is dependent upon grant monies, and donations from organizations and individuals.

**For a \$90 donation**, a child can be provided food through the Backpack program for an entire school year.