



Backpack Meals for Kids

Because kids shouldn't go hungry on the weekends.

Our Mission

To ensure that every child in the Bellevue School District who needs food will receive a pack of food to bring home for the weekend. We believe that this will enable the child to be nourished and can succeed in school.

What We Accomplished This Year

We served 1,040 children.

31,217 packs of food were distributed with six meals each providing 186,000 meals to these 1,040 children!

The Bellevue community mobilized, and hundreds of community members donated thousands of dollars to purchase food. We are grateful that you care and have cared since we began over 12 years ago. With your partnership, we all made this happen. Thank you from all of us at BPM! We look forward to our future together.



Our Impact

Backpack Meals for Kids (BPM) is entering its 13th year taking on the challenge of feeding kids experiencing food insecurity within the Bellevue School District. In 2011, we pledged that *“every kid in Bellevue School District (BSD) who needs food on the weekend could have a pack of ready to eat food available to take home.”* We have been committed to this pledge every year since *because*:

- Kids cannot learn without adequate and nourishing food; this includes weekends!
- If they cannot learn, they will fall behind and fail in school.
- There were 400 homeless kids and nearly 3,000 food insecure homes reported in the BSD during the 2022-23 school year.
- 18% of children in BSD live in families with food insecurity.
- 1 in 6 kids in Washington State live in families struggling with food insecurity.

What is Food Insecurity? Not having access to sufficient food, or food of an adequate quality, to meet one's basic needs.

However, Weekend Food Programs improve test scores. A 2020 peer reviewed study of 5th graders in North Carolina (read in our blog at backpackmeals.org) showed that students from struggling families were able to improve their test scores when they were sent home with food on the weekends.

Expanding our Reach. Our 2022-2023 goal was to serve 500 children, an increase of 100 over the prior school year.



Special Thanks

- City of Bellevue Human Services Program awarded us funds for the 2023 Fiscal year and 2024 fiscal year.
- Windermere Foundation has been a supporter since BPM began and has contributed over \$210,000 to help feed children.
- Feed Washington contributed \$12,000 to BPM this past year.
- Bellevue Lunch Rotary has supported us with generous grants for many years.
- Sunrise Rotary has supported us with grants since 2014. Thank you!
- Bellevue School District Community Outreach expressed appreciation that we can provide this much needed food for children in the Bellevue School District.

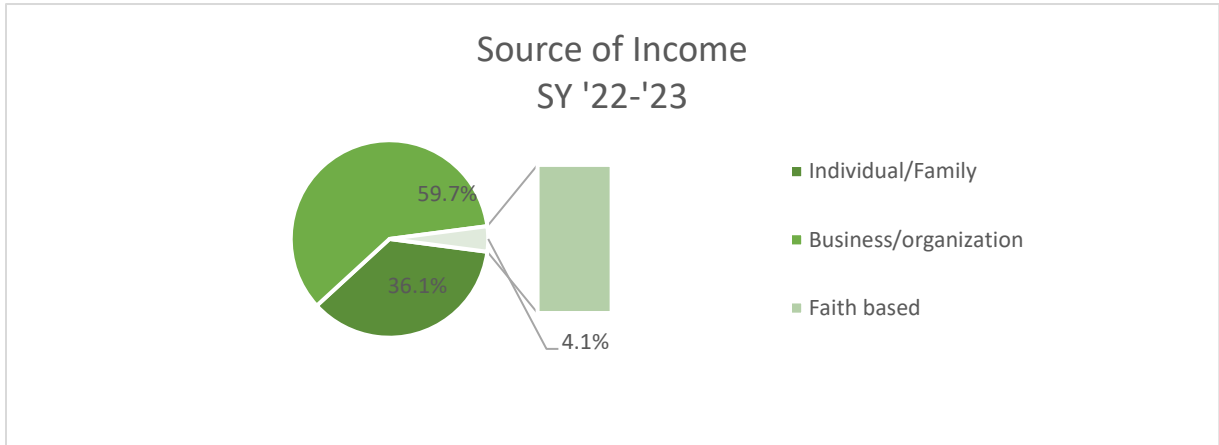
Our Volunteers

There are many ways that YOU can help:

- 1) Food delivery to the schools each week.
- 2) Community food packing parties sponsored by:
 - Bellevue Noon Rotary
 - Gates Ventures
 - Microsoft Natasha's Team
 - Bellevue First Congregational
 - Holy Cross Lutheran
 - St. Andrews Lutheran
 - St. Louise Catholic Church
 - St. Madeleine Sophie Christmas Gift
 - Aldersgate Methodist
 - Youth Serve Peers
 - Muslim Association of Puget Sound Preschool, Precious Hearts Daycare.
 - The Sammamish High School Girls Basketball Team packed 400 preschool packs in just 2 hours, which included unloading boxes, set up, packing, and loading cars.

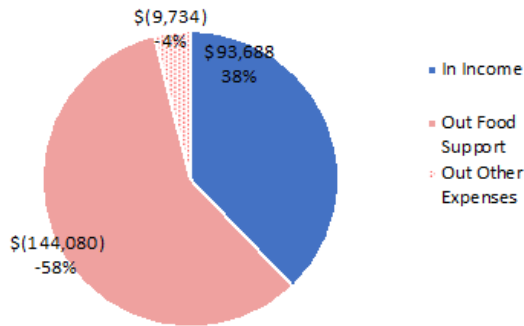


Our Finances



SY '22-'23

Thru June-2023 (Data Updated 07/04/2023)



School Year 2022-2023: Other Expenses

Accounting Fees	
Insurance	(\$2,506)
Printing/Postage	(\$2,689)

Our Challenges Continue

Even with an affluent community such as Bellevue, there are thousands of children who need food. Backpack Meals for Kids will continue to help these kids and their families.

To continue preventing hunger and building success for Bellevue kids, please visit www.backpackmeals.org.



Board Members



Janet Starr: *Board Chair* – Founder, R.N., 30 years in healthcare, working to solve hunger for 30 years, three children attended Bellevue schools.



Lara Brown: Realtor at Windermere Bellevue, food preparation & delivery, newsletter creator.



Tiffany Ash: *Board Secretary* – Finance & Operations leader for WA Neurodiversity Project, retired VP Corporate Strategy at Tableau, parent of two young children.



Jessica Pichora: Project Manager at Salesforce, proud partner to a middle school woodshop teacher, parent of one young child.



Farida Hakim: Founding Board member, Bellevue resident since 1986, PM at Microsoft, Faculty member of Bellevue College & TELOS, an educational program for retirees. Outreach Board member of Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council.



Ankit Gupta: Advocate for social change, Sr. Manager at Amazon, supports BPM's mission through strategic leadership & participative governance.



Maggie Rader: Manager of food distribution & deliver, volunteer supervisor & liaison with Bellevue School District, faith formation leader at St. Madeleine Sophie.



Julie Yari: Sr. Director People Support Services at Town & Country Markets, Inc., parent of two boys who attended Bellevue schools, board member since 2022, donor since 2017.

Team

Candice Boyce: *Board Treasurer* – Retired from federal service, worked at Mustard Seed daycare as bookkeeper, interests in quilting.

Phil Piazza: Prepared analytic charts & other data tracking projects, mail pickup, creative thinker.

Nancy Vann: Food distribution, longtime volunteer to serve community needs, especially children.

Olivia Bannerman: Webmaster & media, Bellevue local, yoga lover, dog mom.

Kenny Ho: Former board member, manager preschool program.