



# ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024



## Backpack Meals for Kids

Because kids shouldn't go hungry on the weekends.

# TO OUR SUPPORTERS

## 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.

## Our Impact

Backpack Meals entered its 14<sup>th</sup> year of taking on the challenge of feeding kids experiencing food insecurity within the Bellevue School District. Backpack Meals board and volunteer staff committed to this pledge every year because we know that kids cannot learn without nourishing food. We know that 18% of children in BSD live in families with food insecurity. That is the equivalent of 3,500 students! We want all children to be nourished so that they can succeed in school.

Backpack Meals for Kids is the only organization in Bellevue to put real food into the hands of children for the weekend. Not only does the food provide nourishment, but it also tells children that their community cares.

Studies prove that children who receive food to take home on Friday show improved test scores.

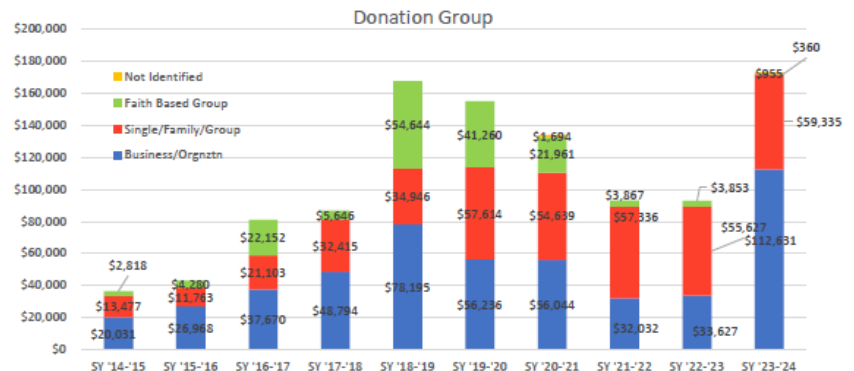
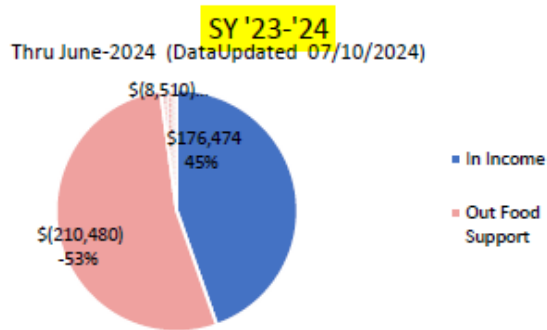
*35,500 packs of food were given to 1000  
preschool, elementary school and high school students*

## Our Future

Since 2011, when we began feeding children, the numbers have increased from 60 children served each week to 1000 children today. With this growth, the need to change our structure became clear. We needed dedicated staff in addition to our wonderful volunteer team.

For the last two years, Backpack Meals for Kids has purchased the weekend food packs from Backpack Brigade. We have a well-organized and collaborative working relationship with Backpack Brigade. They will begin delivering the packs in September of the 2024-2025 school year. And during the first quarter of 2025, Backpack Brigade will assume all functions of Backpack Meals for Kids. At that time, Backpack Meals for Kids will dissolve.

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY



## Our Wonderful Supporters – Thank you!

### Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Committee

This nonprofit organization supported us in our beginning years, providing the nonprofit status. We are grateful to them for helping us start this mission.

### Windermere Foundation

Since Backpack Meals for Kids began, The Windermere Foundation has supported us with a donation at the beginning of the school year. This has made it possible for BPM to continue and grow our service to children in Bellevue Schools. Thank you, Windermere! Lara Brown is the liaison from Backpack Meals to Windermere Foundation and we are grateful to Lara for her continuous advocacy.

### Bellevue Rotary

The Bellevue Rotary has generously provided funds over many years. In addition, they helped pack food packs.

### Sunset Rotary

Sunset Rotary generously committed to our mission for many years.

### Human Services Funds

BPM received \$41,000 in the first year

\$44,000 received in the second year

### Faith Organizations

- ▣ St Andrews Lutheran Church contributes monthly
- ▣ St. Louise Catholic Church
- ▣ St. Madeleine Sophie Catholic Church
- ▣ Aldersgate Methodist
- ▣ Muslim Association of Puget Sound Preschool, Precious Hearts
- ▣ Bellevue First Congregational
- ▣ St. Margarets Episcopal Church
- ▣ Eastside Friends
- ▣ Church of the Resurrection
- ▣ Holy Cross Lutheran Church of Bellevue (*It has closed and sold its property to Habitat for Humanity. Thirty percent of the profits after the sale will be given to Backpack Meals for Kids. This incredible gift will be directed to covering the cost of weekend food needs for the children of Bellevue for some time to come.*)

## Our Board



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



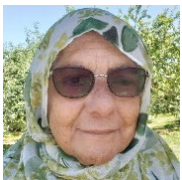
**Lara Brown:** Realtor at Windermere Bellevue, food preparation & delivery, newsletter creator.



**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.

## Our 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.

