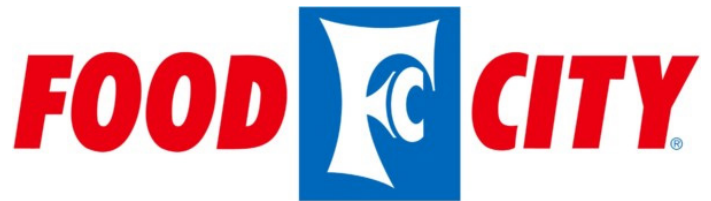




Creating

# LASTING IMPACT

## SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA CHILDREN STILL HAVE OPPORTUNITY FOR NUTRITIOUS MEALS DURING PANDEMIC



Imagine that you are a child who can't attend school because of the COVID-19 pandemic. You are continuing to learn in a virtual classroom now, but here's the catch – you don't have food at home, and you are hungry. The cafeteria food that used to keep you full is no longer an option. How do you focus on learning when you can't stop thinking about how empty your stomach is?

Thanks to donors like you and partners like Food City, Southwest Virginia families of the 1,085 children in over 30 schools enrolled in the Backpacks Unite Program received Food City food gift vouchers for parents and guardians to purchase healthy meals. Keeping our students full and focused during these uncertain times gives them opportunities equal to those students that can continue to be well fed.

In the first 12 weeks of the Backpacks Unite program, the number of students making D's or less decreased by 24%, and the number of students in the program who struggled with

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paying attention in class decreased by 19%. A representative from Pleasant View United Methodist Church stated, **"It's been good to know United way has been hard at work developing a plan that would ensure the safety of our volunteers and most importantly, meet the needs of the children we serve."**

Even with the obstacles and challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, Backpacks Unite continued to serve the region's at-risk students. By providing food vouchers to students, Backpacks Unite volunteers and students were kept safe while ensuring students still received resources. Overall, 31 schools in our region received food vouchers for at-risk children to purchase weekend meals.

For more information contact  
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Southwest Virginia