



Creating

LASTING IMPACT

LOCAL YOUTH LEADS THE WAY FOR COMMUNITY IMPACT

Virginia Pillion Raised more than \$50,000 during July for a virtual fundraising event to benefit United Way of Southwest Virginia's Backpacks Unite Program.

"I was amazed by the amount of support I got from the community, from family and friends and my fellow students; so many people participated and helped us make an impact in our community," said Virginia Pillion. One out of every six students is food insecure, and when asked about her motivation for starting the virtual fundraising campaign, Virginia said, "I was committed to raising this money because everyone should have access to the basic necessity of food and never have to worry about going hungry."

"I have been in Washington County Schools throughout my life, and I have seen firsthand how the Backpacks Unite program helps students; I am happy that this fundraising money could support an increased food budget to provide more protein-rich food to the kids," said Virginia Pillion.

Backpacks Unite partners with more than 20 sponsors to serve over 1,000 students in over 30



Local student, Virginia Pillion, stepped up to make a difference in her communities by leading the way to raising more than \$50,000 for the Backpacks Unite program feeding at risk students across the region.

schools across the Southwest Virginia region who are at risk of going hungry. "This program is really something that helps the students of our region," said Travis Staton, President, and Chief Executive Officer, United Way of Southwest Virginia, "It sets them up for success in the classroom, which will, in turn, set them up for success in their futures."

This initiative is made possible by hundreds of volunteers around and donors like YOU who support the success and impact of Backpacks Unite.

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