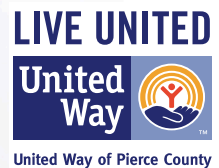


POWER PACKS



It is hard to learn when you are hungry.

One in four children in Pierce County is hungry. A school cafeteria may be the only way some children receive nutritious food every day. United Way of Pierce County joined forces with several local food programs to help extend the reach of their Backpack Programs and tackle the issue of child hunger.

The Power Pack program provides backpacks filled with nutritious foods, including fresh fruits and vegetables, to children in the free and reduced lunch program. The children receive the backpacks on Fridays filled with six kid-friendly meals to bridge the gap on the weekends. The program also provides meal packs during school breaks.

With the continually growing need, United Way secured a grant from Bank of America to help sustain the effort and provides additional resources in the form of volunteers to help collect and build the backpacks and the coordination of food drives at local businesses. Initially, the program was served 400 students during the 2012-2013 school year. Thanks to this collaborative effort more students are being served and several schools were added to the program.

Our Current Work

The Power Pack program started in Tacoma but now serves kids in the Clover Park and Bethel school districts.

SERVED: **554 kids**

United Way coordinates food drives and collects food for Power Packs.

SERVED: **180,000 meals**

United Way has provided funding to several backpack programs locally, helping them reach more kids and extend their service over school breaks as well as weekends.

SECURED GRANT: **\$12,000**