

Project Backpack-New London Needs You!

Project Backpack-N/L recently was awarded the Community Service Award through the New London Chamber of Commerce.

What is **Project Backpack-N/L**? Each Friday afternoon, or the last day of the school week, participating school children receive a backpack filled with healthy food and snacks. On Monday, or the first day of the school week, the child returns the empty backpack to their school. **Project Backpack-NL** volunteers then pick up the backpacks to be restocked with food for the following Friday. Backpacks may include the following items: cereal, breakfast bars, oatmeal, juice, tuna, macaroni and cheese, peanut butter, jelly, crackers, soup, applesauce, fruit cups, ravioli, fruit, vegetables, and other nutritious food. For longer weekends due to school vacations, additional items are added to the backpacks. It is operated only during the months school is in session.

Project Backpack-N/L needs you! Considering the above explanation, you can see that it takes many hands to accomplish our mission: ***“To eliminate hunger in area schools, one student at a time.”*** **Project Backpack-N/L** is in constant need of volunteers to:

- Pack backpacks
- Deliver backpacks to schools
- Pick up returned backpacks from the schools
- Purchase groceries and supplies
- Stock shelves at Shepherd of the River Church Office
- Package bulk food items into individual baggies
- Provide needed funds: purchase a backpack \$10.00; monthly sponsorship to fill a backpack \$36.00; general funds to purchase food for backpacks or to pay for Kwik Trip food vouchers for milk and bread.

If you are interested in volunteering your time or financial donations, please contact John Mast 982-4286/538-3848; Cheryl Hoffman 982-5792; Pamella Hooyman 851-2218; or Carrie Karow 982-2332.