



United Way
of North Central Florida

Children's Food Drive

WHO:

The United Way of North Central Florida is hosting its first food drive for children and families in north central Florida.

WHAT:

Participating workplaces and schools are encouraging their employees and the community at-large to donate shelf stable "kid-friendly" food items to help sustain the Weekend Hunger Backpack Program. Our goal is to collect 50,000 pounds of food in 2009-2010!

WHEN:

Coordination and collection of the food takes place throughout the year. Backpacks filled with food are given to children on the free/reduced lunch program throughout the school year.

WHERE:

Backpacks will be filled with food for hungry elementary children to take home on Friday afternoons. There will be enough food to feed themselves and their siblings over the weekend. Backpacks are brought back every Monday morning.

WHY:

Children living in low-income communities where there is limited access to food have significant nutrient deficiencies and are less likely to perform well in school because concentration is impaired by hunger.

HOW:

Spread the word, participate and make a difference in your community! Put food directly into the hands of children who are experiencing chronic hunger. Monetary donations can benefit the Weekend Hunger Backpack Program as well. The cost to feed a child over the weekend is \$6 per week or \$250 for the entire school year. For more info, please contact Leisa Sergeant at (352) 333-0854 or via e-mail

lsergeant@unitedwayncfl.org



Did you know that...

Hungry children do not have the capacity for normal learning and play. They perform significantly more poorly on standardized outcome measures such as academic performance, standardized testing and completion of school.
-Feeding America, 2009

11.8% of all households in Alachua County are potentially food insecure, compared to 9.4% of all households in Florida.
-Feeding Florida, 2007

According to the U.S. Census Bureau approximately 19.8% of the children in Alachua County live in poverty.

76% of Alachua county elementary students qualify for free/reduced lunch compared to 65% in Florida.
-Feeding Florida, 2007