



# Gather Support with Lakeshore Food 4 Kids FAQs!

## **Why is this program needed?**

- 1 in 5 kids in Mason County are food insecure, meaning they lack access to enough food to meet their basic needs (Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap).
- Nearly HALF of Ludington Area School District's students participate in government-sponsored free or reduced-price meals. These breakfasts and lunches may be the only food that some children eat (if it weren't for LF4K).

## **How are students identified for the backpack program?**

- Teachers, counselors, and the Mason County Family Link work together to identify kids who they perceive as having very limited resources.

## **What does a typical "backpack" include?**

- Each backpack contains items similar to the meals a child would receive during the school day: 2 breakfast options, 2 lunch options, 2 servings each of fruit and vegetables, and 2 snack options. Middle and high school students also receive 2 dinner options.

## **Where does the food come from?**

- Food is purchased from Feeding America, local stores, and available community resources. Some food is donated by generous individuals.

## **How much does it cost to fill one child's backpack?**

- It costs roughly \$150 to fill one child's weekend backpack for an entire school year.

## **How is this program funded?**

- Local individuals and groups have given monetary donations, purchased reusable bags, and donated food. Several community members sponsored one or more backpacks during the holiday season. We have also received grants from local and national foundations. Pennies from Heaven has generously offered to match funds from the Ludington Lake Jump up to \$10,000!

## ***Finally, remind supporters that their help will have a lasting impact!***

- Learners who come to school with a full belly are more focused and better able to learn, safeguarding a brighter future. By removing one of the barriers to education, Lakeshore Food 4 Kids hopes to positively change students' circumstances and allow youth a greater chance of success.