

Weekend Backpack Meal Program

HAMILTON HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

FAQ.

1 What is the Hamilton Heights Backpack Weekend Meal Program?
The Hamilton Heights Backpack Weekend Meal Program is an outreach ministry that provides weekend food bags to children at Hamilton Heights Elementary School who may benefit from additional food support over the weekend. The program is made possible through volunteers, church outreach, and the support of the school.

2 How did Grand Point Church's partnership with Hamilton Heights begin?
Our partnership with Hamilton Heights Elementary began when the school's counselor reached out to Grand Point Church in 2017 and asked us to help address the weekend nutritional needs of students and families. Although Hamilton Heights is not the closest elementary school to our church, it is one of the two largest elementary schools in CASD. We believe the opportunity to serve this school and its students is an important part of our outreach ministry. The Hamilton Heights Backpack Program gives Grand Point Church an opportunity to respond to a need identified directly by our local school community.

3 What about the other elementary schools in CASHS?
The CASD's Backpack Program is structured as a community partnership. Churches and nonprofit organizations partner with individual elementary schools throughout the district. All elementary schools in CASD have a partnering church or nonprofit organization serving its students. GPC partners with Hamilton Heights Elementary.

4 How many students does the program serve?
When the program began in 2017, Grand Point Church provided weekend food support to approximately 20 students. As enrollment grew and more families within the school experienced economic need, the need for the program grew as well. Today, we provide weekend food support for up to 50 students.

5 Why is a weekend meal program needed?
School meal programs help provide nutritious meals during school days, but those programs are generally not available when school is not in session. The Backpack Program helps bridge that gap by providing food for participating students over the weekend. Adequate nutrition plays an important role in children's healthy growth, development, and ability to learn. By helping provide nutritious food over the weekend, the Backpack Program seeks to support both the well-being of students and their ability to return to school ready to learn.

6 What does the weekend backpack program provide to the students?
Each participating student receives food intended to provide weekend nutrition, including: two breakfasts, two lunches, two servings of fruits and/or vegetables, two drinks, & two snacks. While providing nutritious food is the primary purpose of the program, the ministry is also about showing care and compassion to local children and families. We want students and families to know that their community cares about them and wants to support their well-being. In addition to the weekly backpack bags, we help the school with their Christmas Wish Tree and other special projects.

7 How can I get involved, and what if I have more questions?

There are several ways you can make a difference!

- Donate food items from our GoWish list to help keep our pantry stocked. grandpoint.church/backpacks
 - You can donate anytime. We will also be having 3 food collection drives: September 2, December 2, and March 3.
- Volunteer your time by helping deliver food bags to the school or assisting with stocking and counting inventory. serve.grandpoint.church/
- Watch for special projects throughout the year.
- For more information, please contact Tammy Bock (tbock@grandpoint.church), who leads the Hamilton Heights Backpack Program, for more information.