

Dear Community Partner,

In the year to come, nearly 128,000 children in West Virginia will go to bed hungry. The STOP Coalition has been made aware of this through our work with Mingo County schools. Seeing this need firsthand we decided to take action. Our plan was to implement "Backpack Blessings."

The National School Lunch Program has created a safety net in Mingo County, by providing free lunches county-wide; however, still leaving the gap during out of school time. Backpack Blessings can help fill this gap. Our program will provide meals and snacks to be taken home by students every Friday afternoon.

Mingo County has a poverty level of 25.4%, which means $\frac{1}{4}$ of our residents are living below poverty level. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) does provide assistance to these families, but due to the increase in unemployment, variance in family size, rising cost of living and other circumstances, these children still suffer.

We are requesting your partnership to help make a difference in our area. What better investment to make than one into the life of a child? We thank you for your support and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

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