



In December 2006, the Food Bank initiated its first ever Backpack Program at College Heights Elementary School. We received 30 donated backpacks from a youth group in Clyde. Since we had wanted to implement the program for some time, we scrambled for enough funding to purchase kid-friendly foods to fill these 30 packs. It cost about \$3.50 then to fill a backpack for a week, but with the huge increase in cost of groceries, we spend closer to \$4.50 currently. Since starting the program with 30 backpacks, we now serve 23 sites, totaling over 550 kids. We received a grant from The Beaumont Foundation which allowed us to expand the program. We depend on donations from individuals, foundations, and corporations to sustain the program.

The program provides backpacks filled with food that is child friendly, nonperishable, and easily consumed. Backpacks are discreetly distributed to children on Friday afternoons or before holiday vacations.

Chronically hungry children are targeted to receive the backpacks. They are identified by a teacher or counselor, and parents are asked permission for their child to participate. Teachers, parents and the kids rate the program on a report card several times a year. This is helpful as we plan for the next school year.

❖ **BackPacks for Kids Program:**

Abilene

College Heights Elementary (2006)
 Ortiz Elementary (2007)
 Faithworks of Abilene (2008)
 Locus Head Start (2008)
 Woodson Head Start (2008)

Fannin Elementary (2008)
 Kids Club at the Park (2008)
 Bonham Elementary (2009)
 Lee Elementary (2009)

Rural

Clyde (2008)
 Santa Anna (2008)
 Novice (2008)
 Stamford (2008)
 Roscoe (2008)

Comanche (2008)
 Gustine (2008)
 Gorman (2008)
 Merkel (2008)
 Hamlin (2009)

Rising Star (2009)
 Hamlin (2009)
 Anson (2009)
 Eula (2009)