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SACK SUPPER SENTINEL

4 GENERATIONS OF IMPACT!

For the Berry Family, the passion for attacking childhood hunger in our community runs deep...four generations deep, to be exact! From 9 to 90 years of age, this is an exciting story we just had to share with you!

What started as a church youth service project turned into something much more for the Berry Family. At the age of 90, Jeannette Palmer dedicates her time to giving back by decorating Sack Supper bags. "There are people that need help all the time," Jeanette shared.



Jeanette's daughter, Marilyn, explained a moment of realization about childhood hunger in West Michigan - "It's Wyoming. It's Grand Rapids...there are hungry kids? You think of that in third world countries, but you don't think of it in your backyard. I think that people have the idea that if you come, you will be overwhelmed. You think 5,400...you are helping to contribute to that! It doesn't have to be complicated."

"It's always been in our nature to help," Marilyn's son, Bruce, shared. Just as other busy dads, Bruce struggles with the balance of work, his role as a Boy Scout leader, church youth leader and day-to-day responsibilities. "It's worth it. I could come up with a million excuses...but an hour? When I do this, I feel good and when I feel good, I get more done."

During the summer, Marilyn was accompanied by her two eager grandchildren, ages 9 and 13, to volunteer at Kids' Food Basket. "This summer, when I went to pick up the kids to volunteer, they were already waiting at the door, ready to go to Kids' Food Basket!" Bruce is also very proud of his children for volunteering their time at Kids' Food Basket.



The family understands how Sack Suppers are more than just a meal. "It helps them learn! You teach them about eating the right things, to better develop bodies and their minds to be able to function," Marilyn stressed. "They're done with love, with the hope of a better future for them, and that someone cares."

We are truly grateful for all four generations of the Berry family, and the hundreds of families that volunteer at Kids' Food Basket every year, serving as incredible examples to us all!

COMMUNITY PARTNER SHOUT OUT!

Feeding kids is what we do, and with the support of the VanderWeide Family Foundation and W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Kids' Food Basket is becoming even more. These two partners are helping us to provide vulnerable elementary school children in our community with a healthy evening meal, and supporting our strategic vision by helping us achieve local growth, share our program model, expand our Kids Helping Kids program to service schools, and increase diversity and cultural competence.

KIDS' FOOD BASKET KICKS OFF 11TH YEAR OF SERVICE

Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce and West Michigan Hispanic Chamber marked the milestone with a celebratory ribbon cutting, sharing the scissors with two 5th grade students from Sibley Elementary, one of our service schools. We are thrilled to be serving 6,000 children from 34 schools in Grand Rapids and Muskegon!

KIDS' HELPING KIDS LESSONS FOR LIFE

We are excited to announce the creation of several service learning lessons, developed by West Michigan teachers, in partnership with League of Michigan and Learning to Give, specifically designed for Kids' Food Basket.

Service learning provides youth the opportunity to discover their authentic voice on issues, such as childhood hunger, by engaging youth in activities they find especially relevant. They support student learning, achievement, and workplace readiness, as youth work to improve communities. Service learning engages students in civic responsibility, critical thinking, and structured reflection by actively involving them in organized community service. This, in turn, prepares students for a lifetime of personal growth and social responsibility.

To learn more or get your school involved, visit www.kidsfoodbasket.org/servicelearning.



CELEBRATING OUR TEAM

Our team members are an essential part of the attack on childhood hunger. Special accolades to:

Bridget Clark Whitney, Executive Director, recipient of the Athena Young Professional Award by the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce.

Ashley Abbott, Outreach Coordinator, recipient of the Advocate of the Year Award given by the Grand Rapids Young Nonprofit Professionals Network.

Bridget Clark Whitney, Executive Director and Afton DeVos, Development Director, both named as members of 40 Under Forty by the Grand Rapids Business Journal.



"Thank you for the sack suppers. I really like the excellent sandWiches. They help me get good grads. I Love how you care about us!" - Ethan

KUDOS FROM BRIDGET



Childhood hunger is a community problem. And Kids' Food Basket is a community solution. THIS community proves that. When given the opportunity to address childhood hunger, our community did not look away, but instead, chose to deal with the problem head on. And I am humbled to be a part of it.

When I talk to Marilyn Berry, a member of our cover story family and four generations of volunteerism, I cannot help but feel immense gratitude. From on-site volunteering to decorating bags with such care, the Berry family truly passes along love, healthy habits and brain food to children we serve.

Additionally, the VanderWeide Family and W.K. Kellogg Foundations are incredible examples of the dozens of foundations giving of their dollars, knowledge, time and resources. It has been a tremendous journey - from our humble beginnings of \$3k and 10 volunteers, to a movement that is positively affecting thousands of young lives every day. Each and every person is needed to continue this work and remove schools from our waiting list. **Everyone is a part of the solution!**

This fall, we removed 3 schools from the waiting list in Grand Rapids and the Muskegon community removed a school through their local support as well. Six thousand children are receiving nutritious, ready-to-eat Sack Suppers five days a week because of YOU.

Teachers can't teach and kids can't learn when they suffer from hunger. We are changing the futures of the kids that we are serving. **Thank you for being an integral part of the community solution.** The gift of your time delivering Sack Suppers to a school, the food drive you led to gather fruit cups, or the holiday cards you purchase for your colleagues... making it possible to feed thousands of children each weekday.

It's AMAZING the impact WE make when we wrap our arms around the children of our community. We know that while poverty is very complex, feeding a child is not. Thank you for believing in Kids' Food Basket, affording children the opportunity to have a nutritious, ready-to-eat dinner each weeknight. **You are a part of the solution and we'd be incomplete without you.**



Bridget

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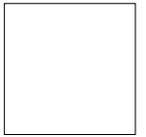
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BECAUSE THEY SAY IT BETTER

You are The Best
 You give us healthy
 food to make us
 stron as a woff
 and youy so nice



Dear Kids' Food Basket,
 Thank you for the sack suppers
 I like that you put fresh
 Goodies and fruit and veggies
 in the sack suppers. This is
 what I really like you put
 your time in to doing this
 for us. I'm so happy you
 would do this for us. I
 Just want to give you
 a Big thank you for all
 the things you put into
 this so thank you!

Sincerely: Jadelan.

Thank
 you!



Sincerely
 Jadelan