



**Kids' Food
Basket**

Sack Supper Sentinel

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**"THIS PARTICULAR
STORY HIT HOME
FOR ME."**

- Johana, School Resource Coordinator

Johana, School Resource Coordinator, shares her personal connection with Kids' Food Basket and the importance of the Sack Supper to the families in her school

While I don't know every family's situation and why they may need these meals, I often learn their stories; stories like Johnny's. This particular story was the first one that really hit home for me, knowing how severe their situation was.

Last winter, Johnny's big brother forgot to pick him up, so I walked him home. When we arrived his dad greeted us and apologized that his son had not been picked up.

He began to explain that he'd spent the whole day trying to get a hold of the gas company so they wouldn't keep the gas off for the weekend. The mom had slipped on ice and broken her ankle, making dad the main care

taker of the house. That accident pushed them into severe poverty.

As new residents in the city, dad had to take time off work to care for his wife and their children. Cooking, cleaning, and school transportation—all things she had done, he now had to do because she was unable to stand.

The kids would tell their mom about their Sack Suppers: "There's so much food in here, mom, we're good! We have something to eat!"

The parents were relieved, focused on looking for work and keeping the gas on.

I remember that evening as I was

bringing the child home, he was holding his Sack Supper, and I thought:

"Many families are just an accident away from major catastrophe."

Kids' Food Basket provides a resource in a very dignified way, allowing parents a private way to request the meals in schools with a high population of kids who need it. It's very different than standing in line at a food truck, which can be very time consuming when parents need to work. Kids can depend on something nutritious and I know it fills a need. Thank goodness they have this resource.



5 WAYS TO MAKE A LOCAL IMPACT

This is a big world that we all live in, but by starting local and breaking down your larger goal into smaller, more attainable steps, you can make a significant impact on childhood hunger. **Here are a few ways you can make a local impact!**

1 Shop and Share
A Shop and Share makes it easy for you to give back - and to support local businesses too! By shopping and dining to support local businesses supporting Kids' Food Basket, you are helping nourishing kids and building economic diversity that leads to a stronger future for our community.

For every kids meal purchased at **Brewery Vivant**, they will provide a Sack Supper to five kids at a neighborhood school. Visit kidsfoodbasket.org/ShopandShare.

2 Social Media Movement
One of the most powerful ways to help us build a movement of passionate supporters is to share stories of impact and facts about childhood hunger with social media friends or followers.



3 Get Creative
Request donations in lieu of birthday gifts, take on a challenge like running a marathon, honor a loved one or fundraise with family or co-workers- the possibilities are endless!

Philip and Marlene asked each of the guests celebrating their **60th wedding anniversary** to donate to Kids' Food Basket in lieu of gifts. Visit kidsfoodbasket.org/jointheattack to start today!

4 Celebrate Impact with Your Community
Join local events to benefit Kids' Food Basket and celebrate how we are making an impact together. Just by participating, you can be a part of helping individuals, corporations or faith communities attack childhood hunger. It's fun, too!

This year, **Gazelle Sports** will host the 7th Annual Gobble Wobble, keeping our community active and enthused about attacking childhood hunger. Visit kidsfoodbasket.org/events for details about events like this!

5 Decorate Sack Supper Bags
Whether you host a bag decorating party with friends, lead a decorating contest with peers, or decorate in order to keep bored kids occupied, each decorated Sack Supper bag provides a touch of love to help every child feel cared for.

The **Detroit Red Wings** scored big with kids when they decorated bags for International Brown Bag Decorating Day. See details at www.kidsfoodbasket.org/BagDecorating.

In reality, there are unlimited ways to give- and if you're dreaming one up, we'd love to hear about it! Contact kidsfoodbasket@kidsfoodbasket.org.

Save The Dates

MARCH 24 | Go Orange Day

Elevate your voice through social media and create awareness about childhood hunger

MAY 4 | Feast for Kids

14th Annual culinary event to benefit Kids' Food Basket

JUNE 15 | Donor & Volunteer Appreciation

An event celebrating YOUR impact and thanking you for your time, talent and treasure

Visit kidsfoodbasket.org/communityevents

COMMUNITY PARTNER SHOUT OUT

Kids' Food Basket is thrilled to partner with the **CDV5 Foundation**. Their mission to help others reach their full potential and sustain long-term health and vitality is a perfect match for Kids' Food Basket. They believe that when each individual is given the opportunity to use his or her own unique talents and abilities to thrive, individual lives and communities are capable of positive growth. For the past five years, the CDV5 Foundation has been committed to Kids' Food Basket and our Sack Supper Program, ensuring kids have the nutrition they need to learn and live well.

Thank you CDV5 Foundation for joining the attack! It is because of community partners like you that we can nourish children to be their best in school and in life.

International Brown Bag Decorating Day

Thank you West Michigan!
You donated **60,524** decorated bags!

There is nothing fun about childhood hunger, but changing the world can be. We hope you had as much fun decorating each bag as the kids will have when opening them! We are so appreciative to all of those who participated in decorating and spreading the word.

THANK YOU for providing the touch of love that every child deserves! We accept decorated bags year-round, and hope to continue seeing your creative masterpieces!





Kudos from

BRIDGET

Late this summer marked over 13 years for me with Kids' Food Basket, 12 of them serving as Executive Director of this incredible organization. I have always been fiercely passionate about our critical work - and that every child has the right to good nutrition, proper brain development, and the opportunity to reach his or her full potential. And, since I've become a mom, I am more deeply connected to each child we serve. **Because every one of the children we serve is my child—our children. That's why stories like Jen's motivate me tirelessly to continue the attack on childhood hunger.**

Last spring, my husband and I were at a fundraiser to benefit Kids' Food Basket when I serendipitously met Jen, one of the teachers from a school that we serve. Her particular school was a newer school, a school that we had been able to take off of the service waiting list because of YOU - our generous supporters. She was excited to chat as her first-grade students had only been receiving meals for a few months, and she was over the moon about their impact. She shared that all of the children in her class live in poverty, and that a nutritious Sack Supper each day meant one less thing that would cause her children stress and worry.

But here's the kicker. She shared with me that she had been having a super tough year. She felt teaching was really difficult and that she had serious behavior problems in her classroom. She told me that she had been considering leaving teaching. Each day she would come home to her spouse and cry about the problems the children in her classroom were facing. But then, a dramatic difference - so dramatic that she was re-energized and motivated. What was it? It was Kids' Food Basket Sack Suppers. Good, nourishing food delivered into the tiny hands of her first grade students each weekday.

Jen said that it made all the difference in the world. After only two months of her students receiving daily Sack Suppers, she said:

"I realized that I never had a behavior problem in my classroom. What I had was a hunger problem."

Teachers can't teach and kids can't learn when kids are hungry. Research tells us again and again that kids who don't have enough nourishing food have a diminished capacity to learn. They simply cannot learn to read, write or do math if they are affected by hunger. And hunger doesn't necessarily mean malnutrition—mild undernutrition is enough to create irreparable effects on the brain. That kind of mild under-nutrition is the most common kind from which children who are living in poverty across this country are suffering.

Feeding our children isn't just the right thing to do; it's the smart thing to do. It is an investment in the future success of West Michigan. Food provided by Kids' Food Basket does more than provide children with essential daily nutrition -- it helps the economy by creating a smart, strong generation of future leaders, and fights hunger and poverty in our neighborhoods. It's for teachers like Jen, who knows that when the barrier of hunger is removed, she can teach her first-graders to read. Because of you and your continuous support of time, talent and treasure, Kids' Food Basket is playing a significant role in breaking the cycle of poverty.

We need you. **We need each and every person in our community to make our mission happen.** It takes the creativity, courage, and compassion of all of us to change the world.

Wishing you so much peace, love and good health during this holiday season,

Bridget

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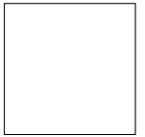
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Dear Volunteers,
Food Basket are important to me
because I know I'll have food.
When I get home from school
my favorite part of sack supper
is the soft sandwich my sack
helps me do my homework my sack
supper makes me feel smarter I'm
thankful for the volunteers who
make sack supper
Sincerely
Solana



We can't do it without **YOU**

Join us on social media for
#GivingTuesday on December 1st!
Learn more at [kidsfoodbasket.org/
GivingTuesday](http://kidsfoodbasket.org/GivingTuesday).