



#HungerTakeover

Every school year, between 800 to 1,000 students in Gaston County Schools will experience hunger or food insecurity on the weekend. Many of these students live in households with families that are working one or more jobs to make ends meet and barely scraping by each month. These are moms and dads who are living paycheck to paycheck, with the fear of the unexpected bill that could send them over the financial edge.

While these stories are scary and may seem bleak, there is hope, thanks to the BackPack Weekend Food Program, Inc. (BWFP). Established in 2011, the mission of the BWFP is to help alleviate weekend hunger among school-aged children in Gaston County Schools so they can come to school more alert and better able to learn on Monday.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Are you a business looking for an opportunity to give back to your community? This is your chance. Every month through the end of the school year, the BWFP is opening up its warehouse to local businesses to volunteer their time with a "HungerTakeover" day. Get a behind-the-scenes access pass to the BWFP operation and a chance to pull up your sleeves to help others in need. There is something transformative about being able to touch the food that goes into a backpack and knowing you are making a difference in a child's life.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where is the BWFP warehouse located?

The BWFP warehouse is located at 514 Linwood Road in Gastonia. Look for the balloons!

How long will I need to volunteer?

Volunteer (Pull Order) day starts at 9:00 a.m. and wraps up around 2:00 p.m. We encourage volunteers to stay the entire day; however, we understand if you can only volunteer for a few hours. Preferably, we ask that you try to come during the morning hours when the bulk of the work is done. If you plan to leave early, just let us know so we can fill your spot.

How many volunteers can I send?

We have a dedicated group of regular volunteers; however, we love to have new guests join us. Please send no more than 5 volunteers for "HungerTakeover." You can split volunteer time among employees. For example, two volunteers may come in the morning until 11:30 a.m. and leave around lunch. Another group can plan to volunteer in the afternoon following lunch.

What should I wear?

Wear comfortable clothes and shoes. You will be standing most of the day, so it's important you wear shoes you can stand in for multiple hours. Depending on the season, you may want to bring a light jacket.

What do I do for lunch?

Lunch is provided. In fact, we encourage businesses to sponsor lunch on your "HungerTakeover" day. We feed between 30-35 volunteers anything from subs to pizza. If lunch requires any food prep, keep in mind we do not have access to a microwave or stove.

Learn more

The Backpack Weekend Food Program, Inc. is a 501c(3), tax-exempt nonprofit organization. Visit www.bwfpgc.com to learn more about our program and check out a sneak peek of our warehouse volunteer day [here](#). We're also on Facebook and Instagram.

