

BACKPACK MINISTRY “THANK YOU”

Dear Friends:

As we approach the end of 2020 and the end of the “fall semester” of school, allow me a moment to **thank** all those who have donated time, energy, food items, and dollars to make Walnut Hill’s Backpack Ministry possible. As of last week, Walnut Hill has provided **645 backpacks** for students at Brenda Cowan Elementary School (BCE). Below is a photo of a typical weekly delivery to BCE. Amazing!



I do not have to convince you of the importance of this ministry. Nonetheless, I lately received from Esther Livingston a personal witness to the importance of what we are doing at BCE. Esther, who works at Berea College, was interviewing a student. Esther writes...

Before Thanksgiving I was conducting an interview with a student who was applying for an internship with a non-profit community organization that addresses issues related to poverty. One of the

application questions asked about her experience with poverty and why she was interested in this agency. In her response, she said that she had experienced a very unstable childhood and had moved more than 30 times. She said she never knew where she would be sleeping from one night to the next, or where her next meal was coming from. She was able to receive free lunches when she was at school, and she said she didn't know what she would have done if it hadn't been for "some group" that provided food that she could take home on the weekend. She said she didn't know who those people were, but it helped her survive, and having been the recipient of such kindness, she wanted to give back and work with a community service organization that was addressing real needs of children.

The young woman in this case lived in a different community than Lexington. That said, I have no doubt that some students at BCE could report similar experiences.

In the midst of the gloom of this Covid-time, the Backpack Ministry has been a very bright spot for our neighbors, and for the church. Thank you for making it possible.

On to 2021 and the "spring semester" of Backpack Ministry!

Peace,

Mike