



Blessings in a Backpack is a national organization that provides weekend meals to children who, otherwise, might go without. **For only \$80 a year, you can help feed one!**

Shear Blessings, launched from the Holy Spirit Episcopal community, desires to serve the children of Blackshear Elementary, a pre-K-5th grade campus of 425 students located in the heart of Houston's 3rd ward. 98% of the students at Blackshear participate in free/reduced meal programs, and 64% are considered to be "at risk." In addition, Blackshear is considered to be in a "food desert," where healthy, affordable food is difficult to obtain due to lack of resources, lack of supermarkets and lack of transportation. During the school week the children are fed by government programs, but these programs do not provide assistance over the weekend. These are some of the stories we have heard:

"A third grade student was walking to school crying one morning. One of the parents stopped her and asked why she was crying. The student's response was "I haven't eaten all weekend and I'm hungry." She told us that the only thing she had eaten for the entire weekend was a bag of chips. We were in total amazement when we heard this. Of course we provided her with a breakfast so that she could have a productive day in class. We hear of these things happening not realizing that we are right in the midst of them all." - Teacher, Blackshear Elementary

"Several students are very upset, sometimes to the point of tears, because they miss breakfast. The cut off time for breakfast is 8:00 and we have students trickling in after that time. Many of them will ask "Are they still serving breakfast?" Unfortunately we have to tell them "No." It's heartbreaking." - Administrator, Blackshear Elementary

Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, Shear Blessings will start to make a difference, but we need **your help**. Shear Blessings will stuff backpacks and deliver them to Blackshear Elementary every Friday during the school year. We welcome school, youth, Boy Scout, Girl Scout, family, sports, GAP groups, or any other group willing to volunteer hours in support.

Fundraising efforts also are underway. Tax deductible donations can be made online at www.blessingsinabackpack.org. **To make sure your donation is used to feed the kids at Blackshear, please indicate "Other: Blackshear Elementary – Houston" in the Designation line.** You can also send your tax deductible donation to:

**Blessings in a Backpack Bank Lockbox
Acct: Blackshear Elementary - Houston
P.O. Box 950291
Louisville, KY 40295**

Please also note "Blackshear Elementary - Houston" in the memo of your check.

With Blackshear designated on your donation, whether online or by mail, 100% of your donation goes towards food purchases for kids at Blackshear Elementary.



Follow us on Facebook by selecting "like" at Shear Blessings in a Backpack.

For more information or to volunteer, e-mail us at shearblessings80@att.net or contact Program Coordinators Melissa or Kevin Peter at 713.647.5537



*"Feed My Lambs"
(John 21:15)*



Volunteer Opportunities

Financial Donation

- 100% of all tax-deductible donations go directly to purchasing food for children at Blackshear.
- \$80 feeds one child for a full 38 weeks of school.

Fundraising

- Participate in planning and implementation of fundraising projects such as t-shirt sales, restaurant events, product sales and other revenue generating activities.
- Secure corporate donors/underwriting partners.

Food Crew

- Shop and/or secure food items for the backpacks on Thursday of each week. Volunteers will rotate weeks per a monthly schedule.
- Transport food to backpack site (Holy Spirit Episcopal Church).

Stuffing Crew

- Meet at Holy Spirit to stuff backpacks on Friday mornings at 9:00 on a rotating schedule.
- Volunteer groups can make arrangements to stuff on the first and third Thursdays of the month in either the afternoon or evening.

Backpack Delivery & Retrieval Crew

- Delivery Crews will transport backpacks to Blackshear Elementary (2900 Holman Ave; Houston, TX 77004) on Friday mornings.
- Retrieval Crews will return the empty backpacks to Holy Spirit on Tuesdays.

Teacher Appreciation

- Participate in planning, providing and/or serving lunch to the staff at Blackshear two times during the school year...fall and spring.
- Pray for one teacher/administrator/faculty member by name for the 2012-13 school years (we need 60 volunteers).

Teen Summer Projects

- Opportunities for teens to earn volunteer hours during campus work days throughout the summer.

Food/Toiletries Drive

- Coordinate and/or participate in drives for on-going needs such as toilet paper, toothbrushes, or specific food items.

Monthly e-Blast- "Blast a Blessing"

- Sign up to receive monthly e-mails which contain information about recent news, on-going needs, updates, prayer requests, and volunteer opportunities.