



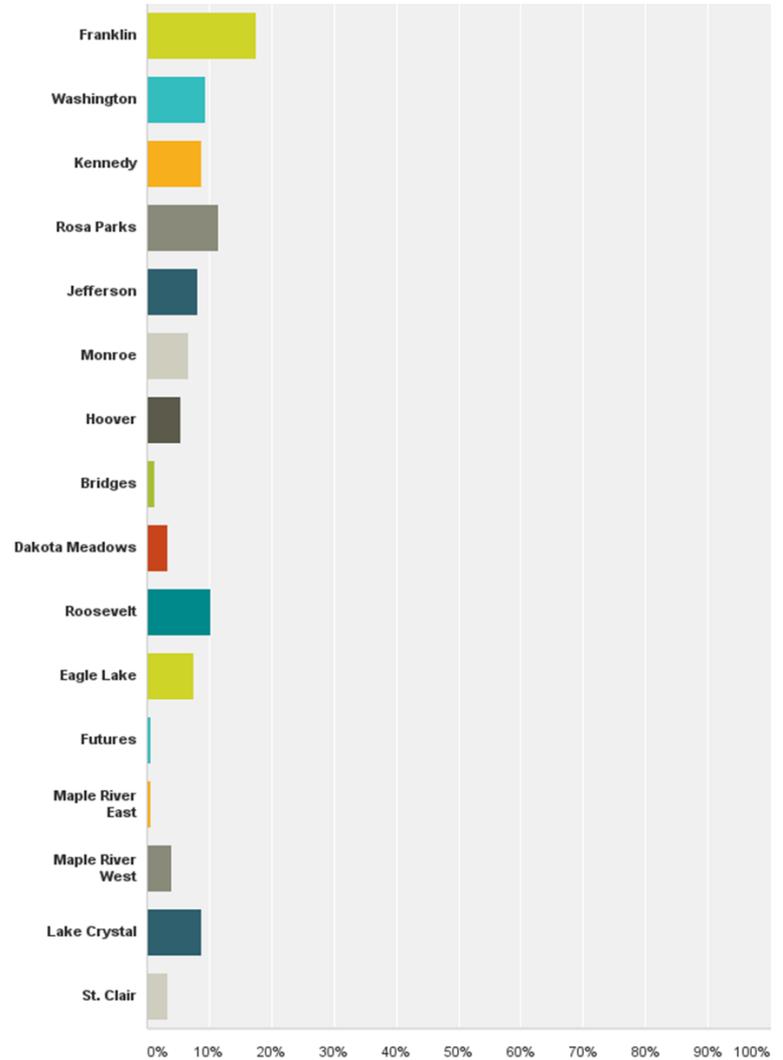
2016 Parent Survey Results BACKPACK FOOD PROGRAM

Date Distributed:	March 1 – April 1, 2016
Method of Collection:	<p>The majority of responses were collected through SurveyMonkey. All parents with children enrolled in the Backpack Food Program received the survey link through a note that was distributed in the schools' "Tuesday" or "Thursday" folders. All parents (for whom email addresses were known) with children enrolled in the program were also emailed a link to the survey. During March 2016 Parent/Teacher Conferences, parents of children enrolled in the program were asked by teachers if he/she had completed the survey. If they responded "no," they were given the opportunity to fill out a paper version of the survey. If they declined, they were given a note reminding them of the survey link.</p> <p>Parents were notified that they only needed to fill out the survey once, even if they had multiple children enrolled in the program.</p> <p>Parent and family names were <u>not</u> collected.</p>
Sampling:	<p>A total of 624 families had children enrolled in the Backpack Food Program during the 2015-16 school year. Surveys were completed and returned by 143 parents for a response rate of 23%.</p>

QUESTION 1

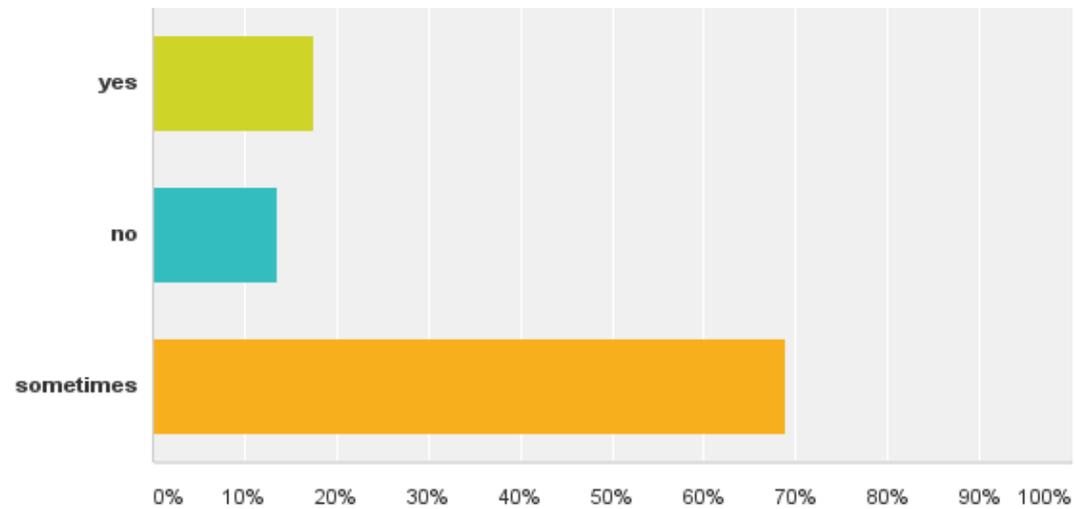
Which schools do your children attend? (Check all that apply.)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Franklin	17.57%	26
Washington	9.46%	14
Kennedy	8.78%	13
Rosa Parks	11.49%	17
Jefferson	8.11%	12
Monroe	6.76%	10
Hoover	5.41%	8
Bridges	1.35%	2
Dakota Meadows	3.38%	5
Roosevelt	10.14%	15
Eagle Lake	7.43%	11
Futures	0.68%	1
Maple River East	0.68%	1
Maple River West	4.05%	6
Lake Crystal	8.78%	13
St. Clair	3.38%	5
answered question		148
skipped question		0



QUESTION 2

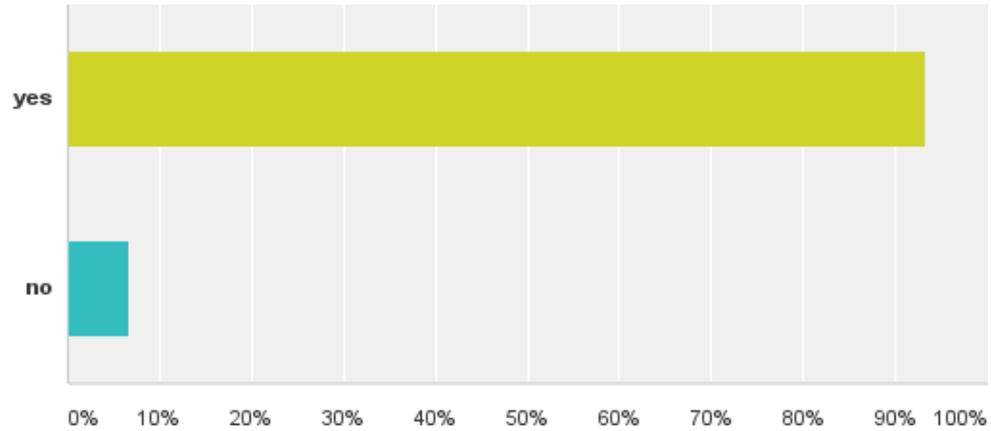
Is it hard to feed everyone in your household?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
yes	17.57%	26
no	13.51%	20
sometimes	68.92%	102
	answered question	148
	skipped question	0



QUESTION 3

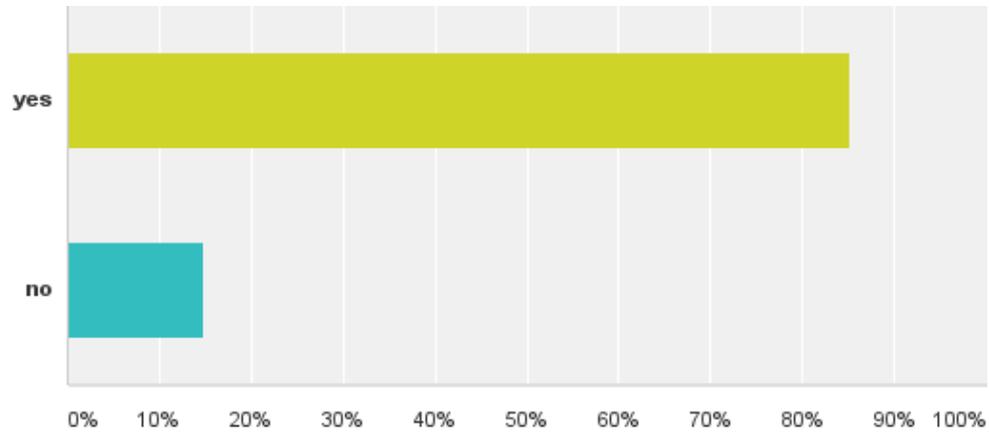
Does the Back Pack Food Program help you to worry less about feeding your children?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
yes	93.24%	138
no	6.76%	10
	answered question	148
	skipped question	0



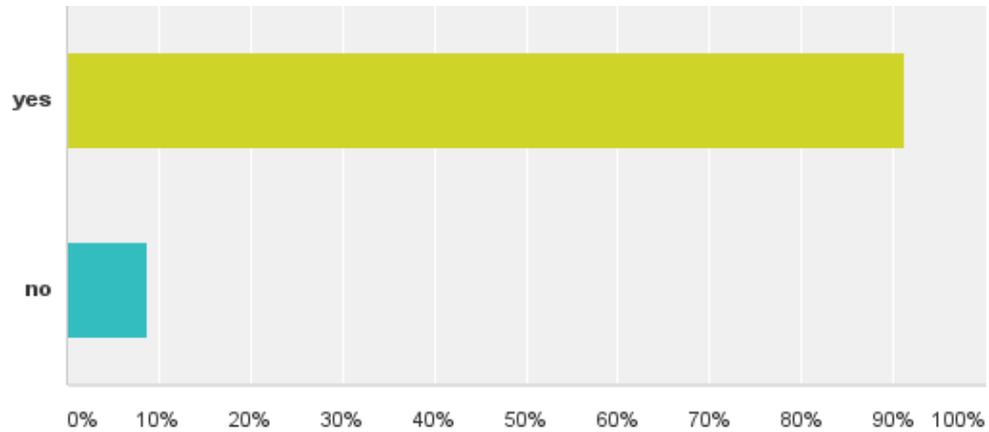
QUESTION 4

Does the Back Pack Food program improve your children's physical well being?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
yes	85.14%	126
no	14.86%	22
	answered question	148
	skipped question	0



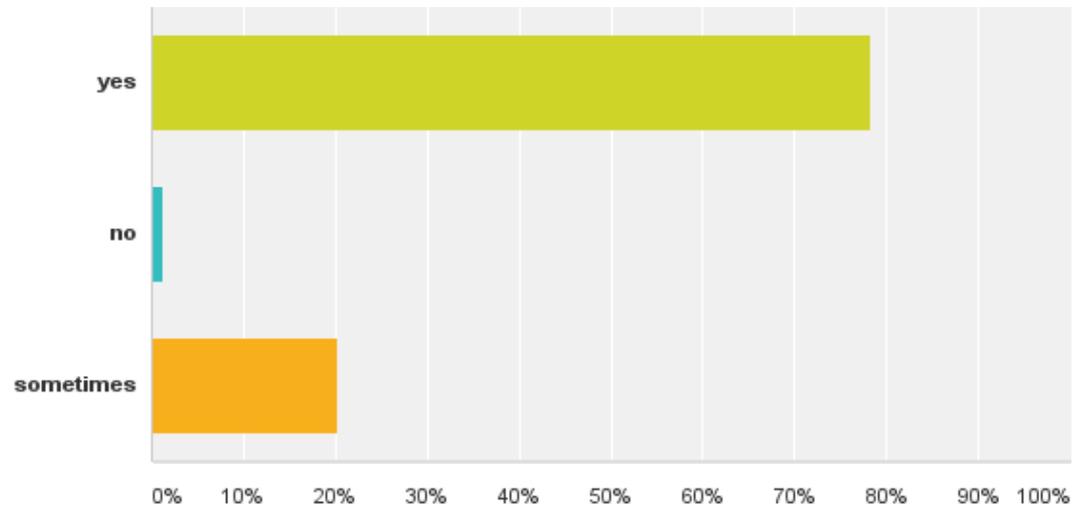
QUESTION 5

Does the Back Pack Food Program make your children happier?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
yes	91.22%	135
no	8.78%	13
	answered question	148
	skipped question	0



QUESTION 6

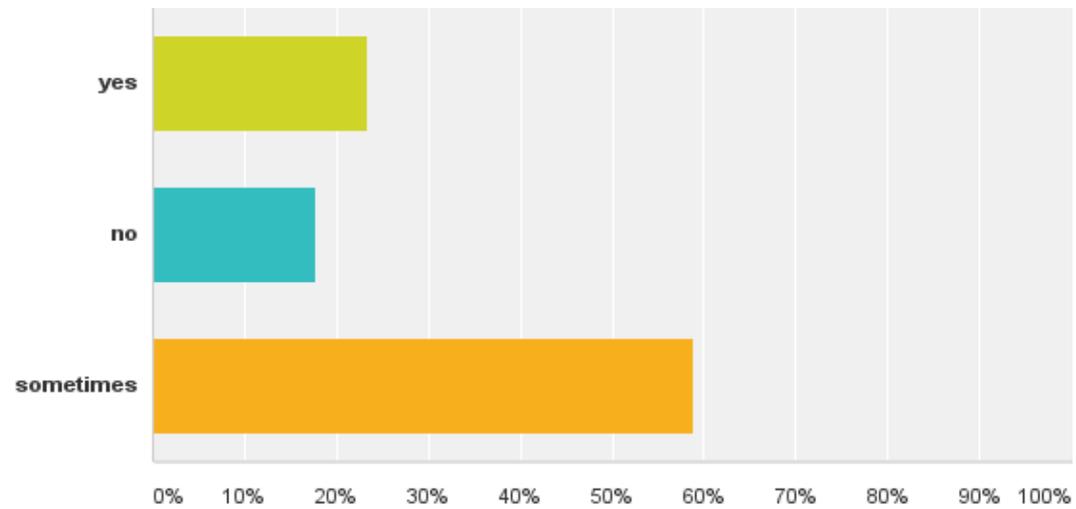
Do your children look forward to receiving their food packs?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
yes	78.38%	116
no	1.35%	2
sometimes	20.27%	30
answered question		148
skipped question		0



QUESTION 7

Are the Backpack Food Program meals the main source of breakfast and lunch for your children on the weekends?

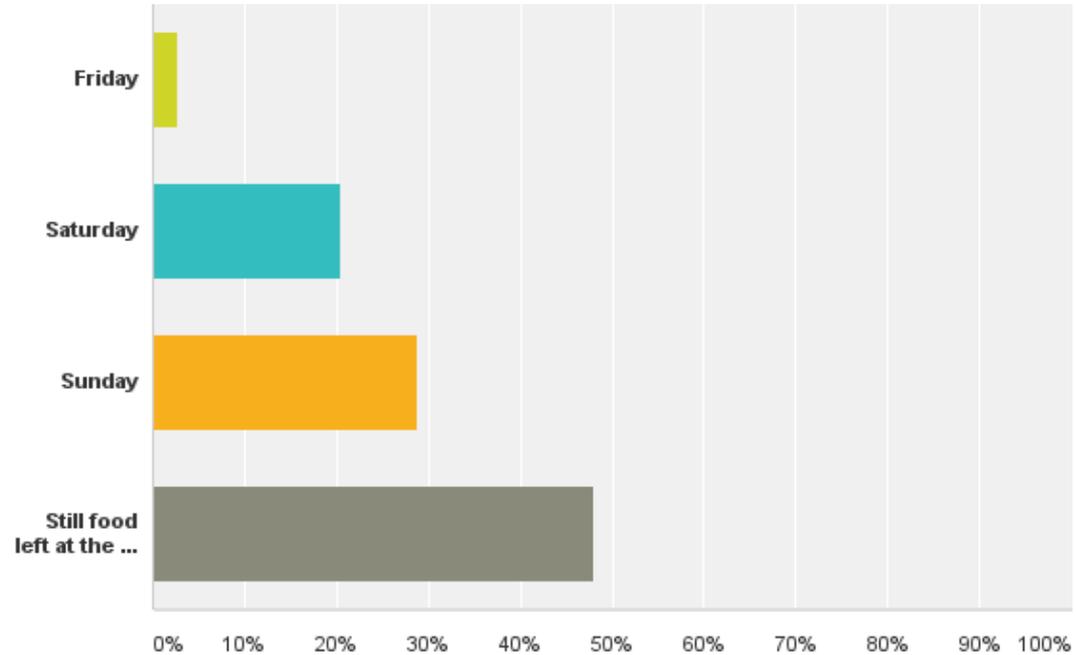
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
yes	23.29%	34
no	17.81%	26
sometimes	58.90%	86
	answered question	146
	skipped question	2



QUESTION 8

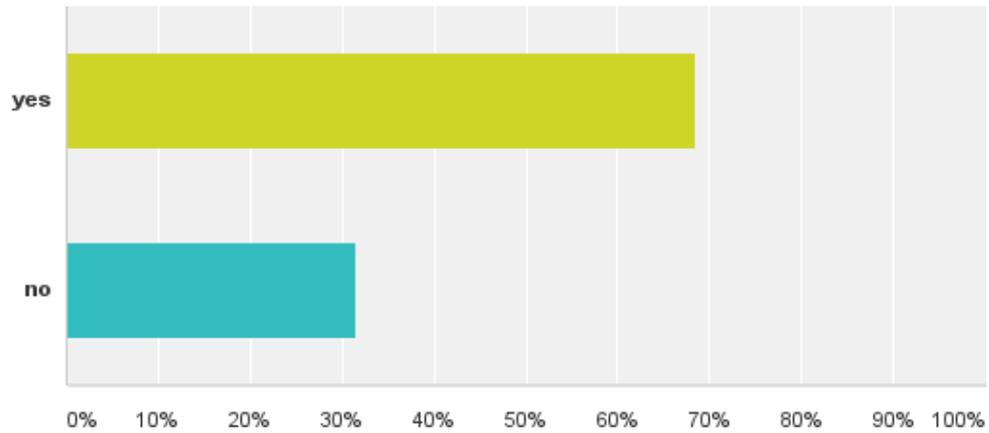
When do your children usually finish the food?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Friday	2.74%	4
Saturday	20.55%	30
Sunday	28.77%	42
Still food left at the end of the weekend	47.95%	70
	answered question	146
	skipped question	2



QUESTION 9

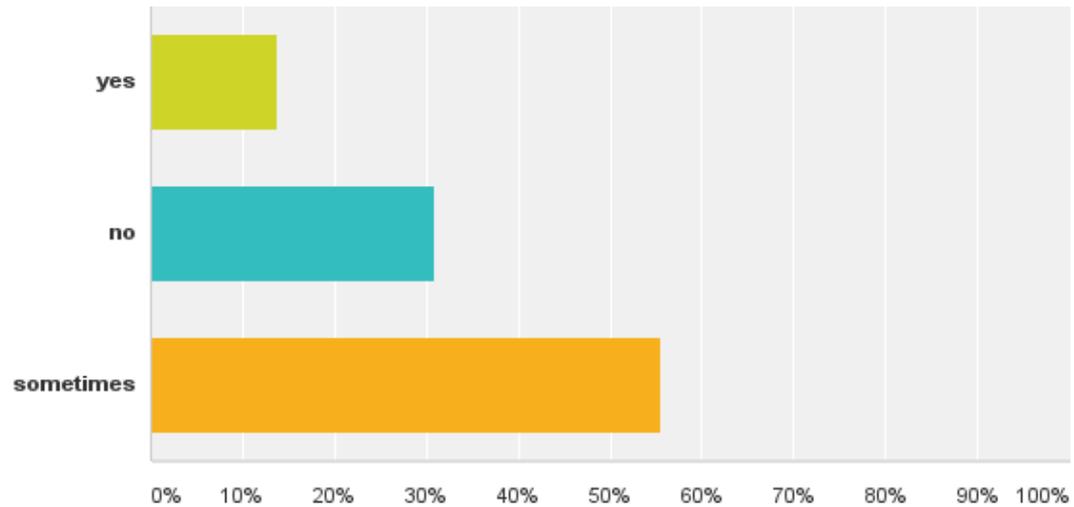
Are you planning to use the summer feeding program for your children?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
yes	68.49%	100
no	31.51%	46
answered question		146
skipped question		2



QUESTION 10

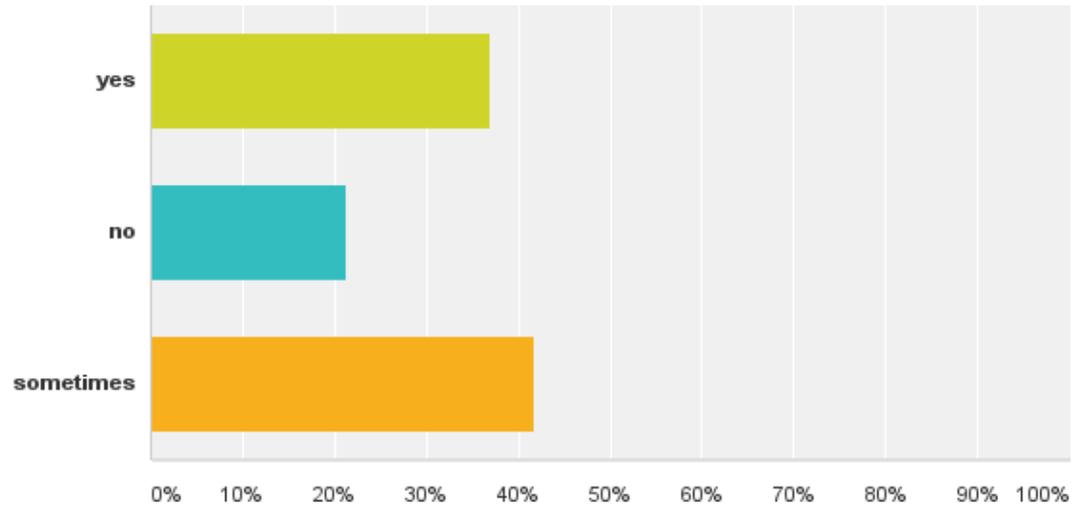
Do your children follow the kid's menu included in the food packs?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
yes	13.70%	20
no	30.82%	45
sometimes	55.48%	81
	answered question	146
	skipped question	2



QUESTION 11

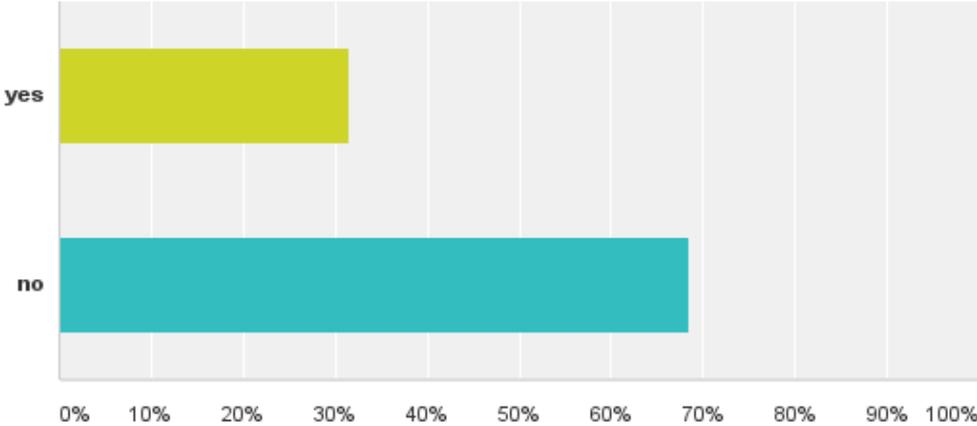
Do you use the nutrition information included in the newsletter?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
yes	36.99%	54
no	21.23%	31
sometimes	41.78%	61
answered question		146
skipped question		2



QUESTION 12

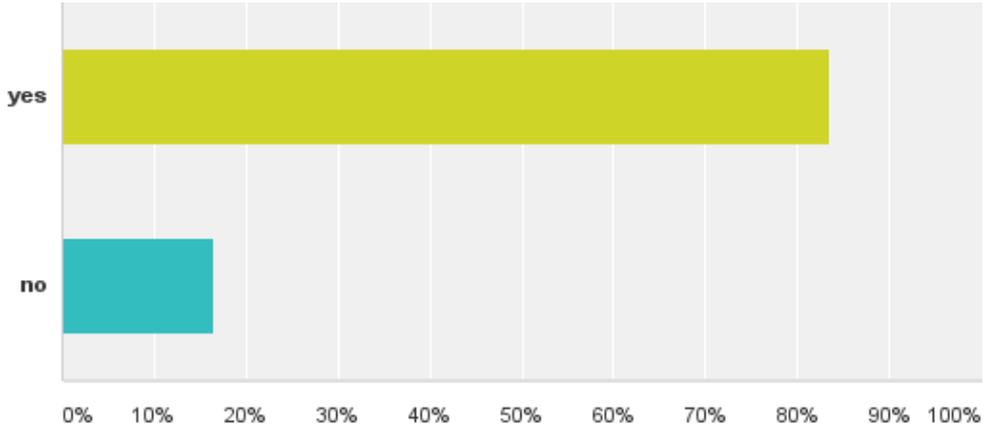
Have you contacted any of the community resources listed on the back of the newsletter?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
yes	31.51%	46
no	68.49%	100
answered question		146
skipped question		2



QUESTION 13

Did you receive a winter break box?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
yes	83.56%	122
no	16.44%	24
answered question		146
skipped question		2



QUESTION 14

If you did not receive a winter break box, please tell us why.	
Answer Options	Response Count
	20
answered question	20
skipped question	126

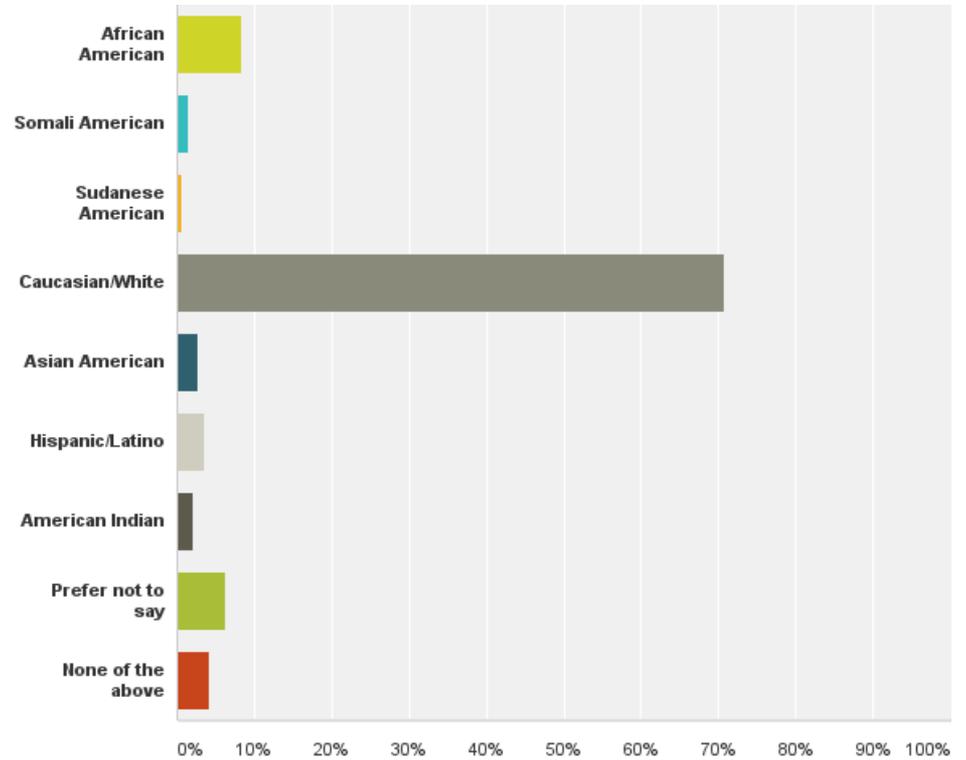
Response Text

Category	Response Count	Percent
Unable to Pick up (time/transportation issues)	6	30%
Was not yet enrolled in program/program not at school yet	6	30%
Forgot	3	15%
Other	5	25%
	20	100%

QUESTION 15

Which one best describes YOUR ethnicity? (Please choose one.)

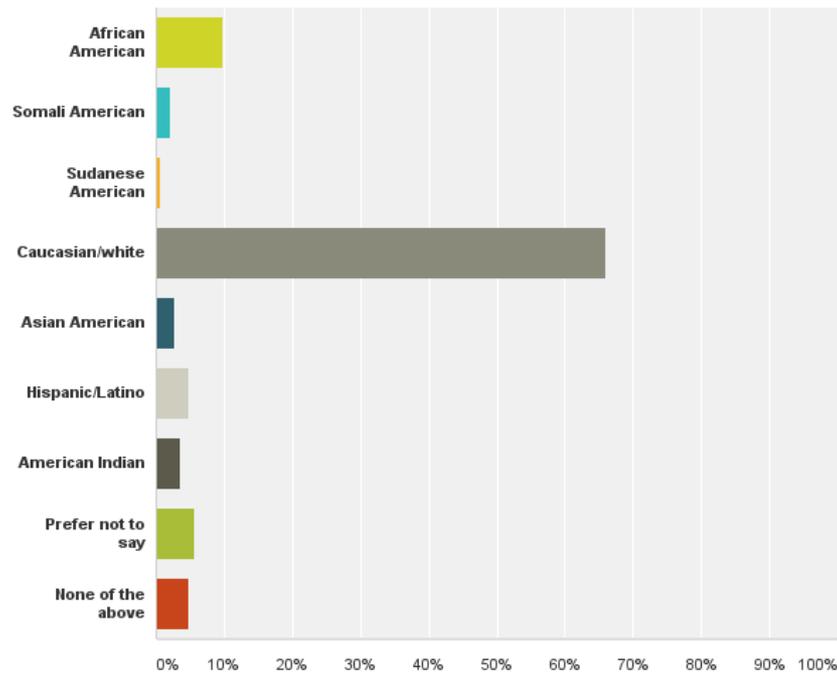
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
African American	8.33%	12
Somali American	1.39%	2
Sudanese American	0.69%	1
Caucasian/White	70.83%	102
Asian American	2.78%	4
Hispanic/Latino	3.47%	5
American Indian	2.08%	3
Prefer not to say	6.25%	9
None of the above	4.17%	6
answered question		144
skipped question		4



QUESTION 16

**Which ethnicity best describes your CHILD who is enrolled in the Backpack Food Program?
(Please choose one.)**

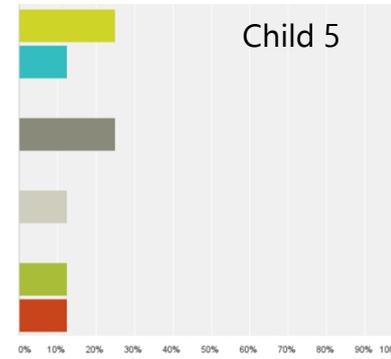
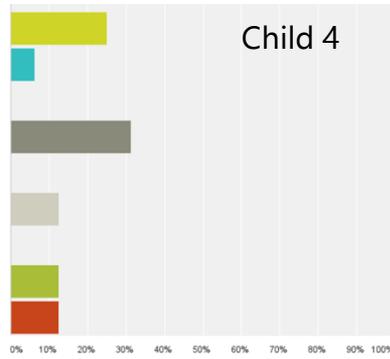
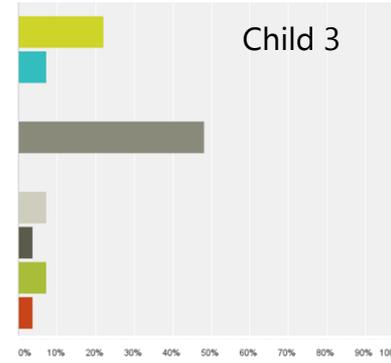
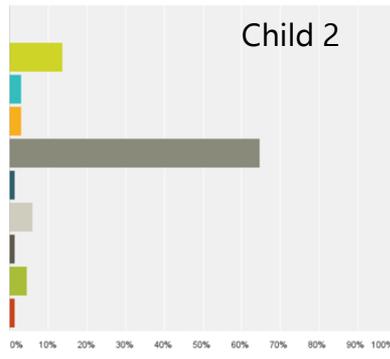
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
African American	9.72%	14
Somali American	2.08%	3
Sudanese American	0.69%	1
Caucasian/white	65.97%	95
Asian American	2.78%	4
Hispanic/Latino	4.86%	7
American Indian	3.47%	5
Prefer not to say	5.56%	8
None of the above	4.86%	7
answered question		144
skipped question		4



QUESTION 17

If you have more children in your household who are enrolled in the Backpack Food Program, please choose the ethnicity that BEST DESCRIBES each of them.

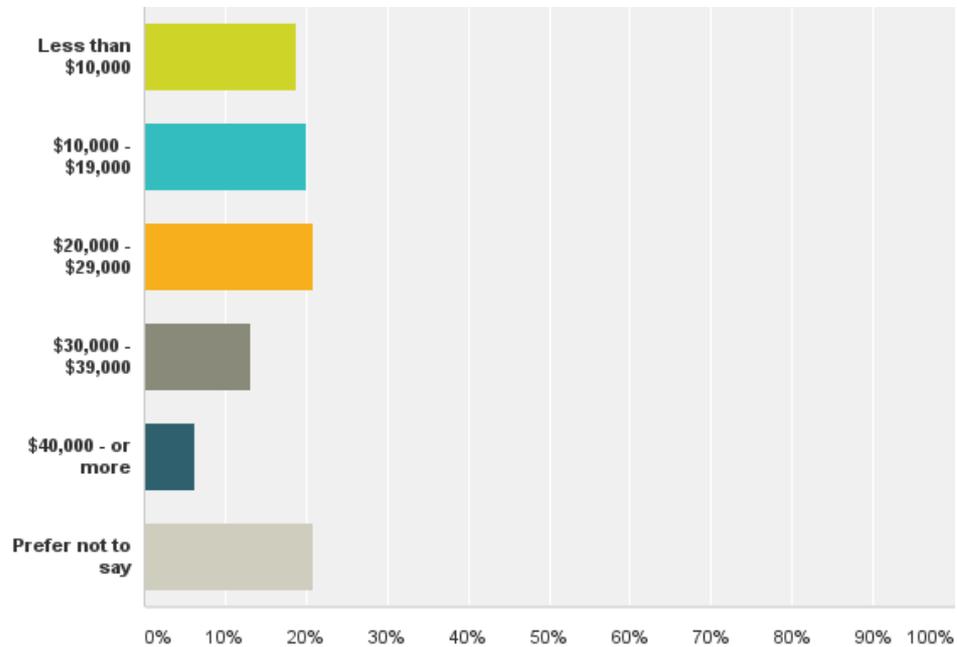
Answer Options	African American	Somali American	Sudanese American	Caucasian/White	Asian American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian	Prefer not to say	None of the above	Response Count
Child 2 (Choose one.)	9	2	2	42	1	4	1	3	1	65
Child 3 (Choose one.)	6	2	0	13	0	2	1	2	1	27
Child 4 (Choose one.)	4	1	0	5	0	2	0	2	2	16
Child 5 (Choose one.)	4	2	0	4	0	2	0	2	2	16
answered question										68
skipped question										80



QUESTION 18

What is your household's yearly income, including youth income or social security benefits?

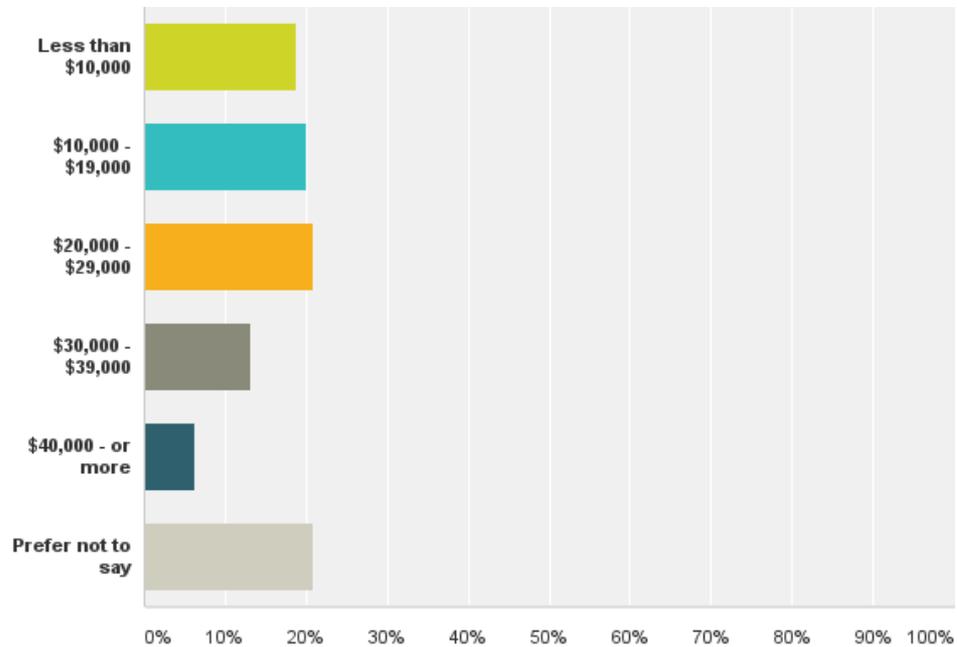
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Less than \$10,000	18.75%	27
\$10,000 - \$19,000	20.14%	29
\$20,000 - \$29,000	20.83%	30
\$30,000 - \$39,000	13.19%	19
\$40,000 - or more	6.25%	9
Prefer not to say	20.83%	30
answered question		144
skipped question		4



QUESTION 19

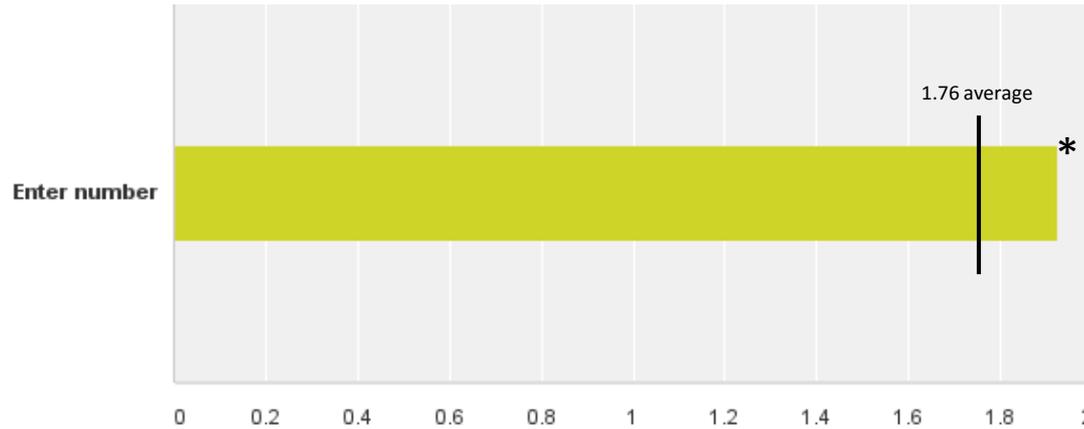
Of the choices below, which one creates the biggest financial hardship for your household?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
cost of housing	32.64%	47
low wages	15.28%	22
unemployment or underemployment	17.36%	25
medical bills	5.56%	8
change in family structure	9.72%	14
Prefer not to say	19.44%	28
answered question		144
skipped question		4



QUESTION 20

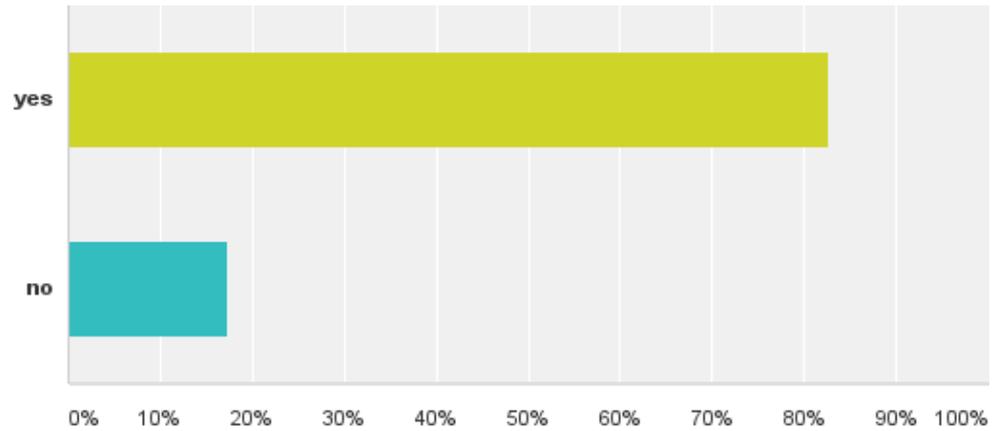
How many adults live in your household?			
Answer Options	Average Number	Response Total	Response Count
Enter number	2	250	142
		answered question	142
		skipped question	6
Categories	Number of Respondents	Total	
1	54	54	
2	77	154	
3	7	21	
4	1	4	
5	2	10	
6	0	0	
7	1	7	
	Response Count = 142	250	



**Reanalysis was conducted due to two responses that were considered probable outliers. The average is lower than what is shown on this graph, which was copied from the SurveyMonkey results.*

QUESTION 21

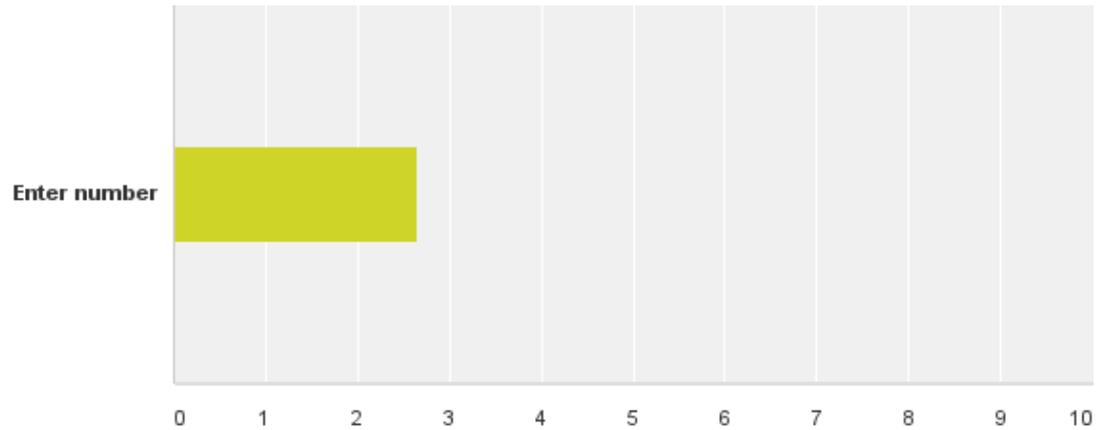
Do any of the adults in the household work full-time or part-time?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
yes	82.64%	119
no	17.36%	25
	answered question	144
	skipped question	4



QUESTION 22

How many children live in your household?			
Answer Options	Average Number	Response Total	Response Count
Enter number	3	382	144
answered question			145
skipped question			6

Categories	Number of Respondents	Total
1	30	30
2	49	98
3	31	93
4	17	68
5	11	55
6	4	24
7	2	14
Response Count = 144		382

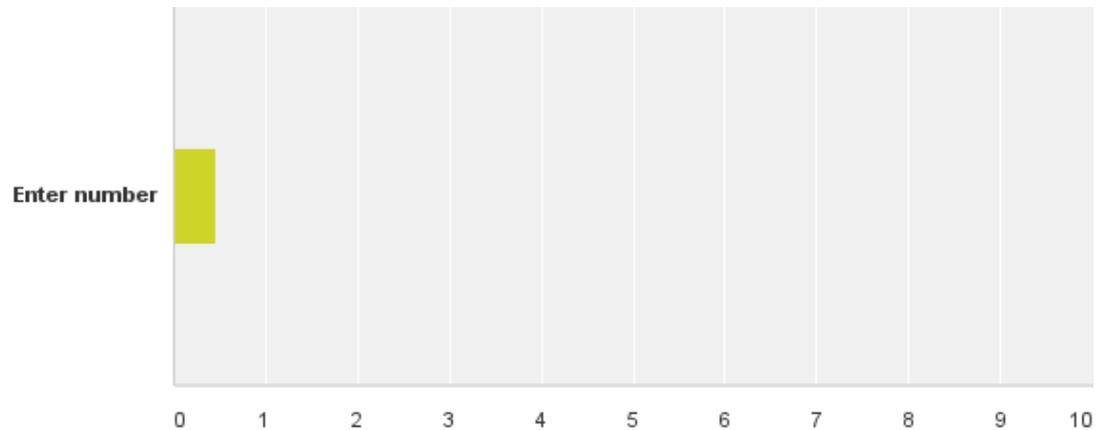


QUESTION 23

How many of these children (referencing previous question) are in 6th, 7th, or 8th grade?

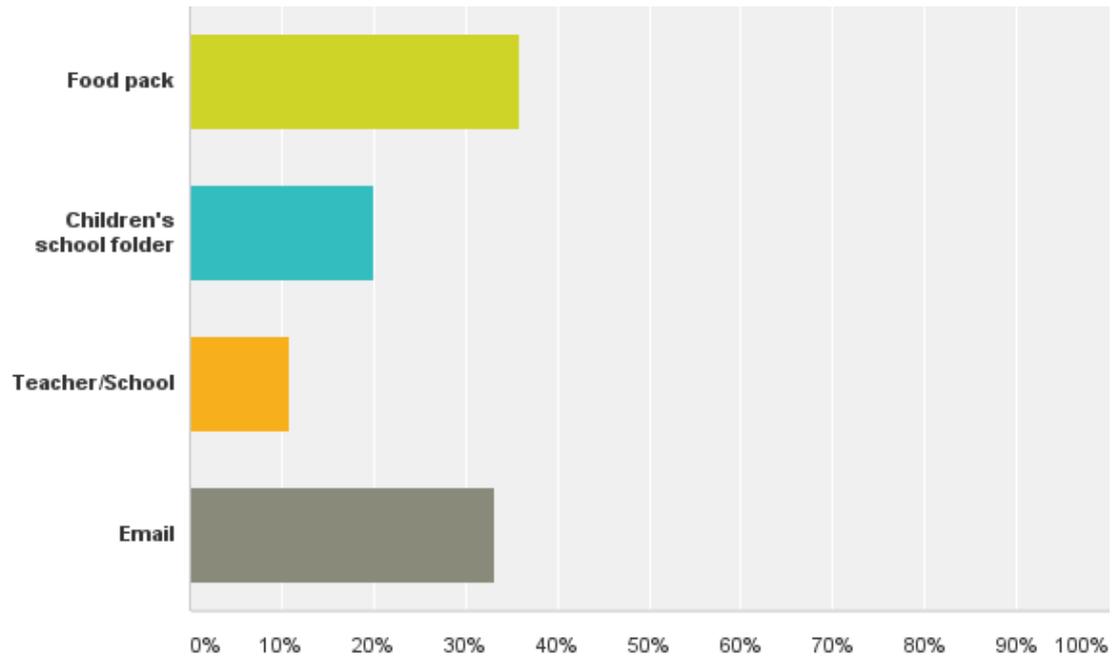
Answer Options	Average Number	Response Total	Response Count
Enter number	0	63	139
answered question			139
skipped question			9

Categories	Number of Respondents	Total
0	88	0
1	42	42
2	7	14
3	1	3
4	0	0
5	0	0
6	1	6
	Response Count =	Response Total =
	139	65



QUESTION 24

How do you prefer to receive information from the Backpack Food Program?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Food pack	35.97%	50
Children's school folder	20.14%	28
Teacher/School	10.79%	15
Email	33.09%	46
answered question		139
skipped question		9



QUESTION 25

Tell us your story. How has the Back Pack Food Program helped your family and your children?

Answer Options	Response Count
	139
answered question	139
skipped question	9

Response Text *(Note: Some responses have had portions omitted or have been completely omitted to protect the identity of the survey participant. Responses HAVE NOT been edited for grammar or spelling. Responses that were entered as "n/a" were omitted from this list.)*

the food comes in handy on weekend when sometimes food is just a lil spare
 She have learned what's good for each daily meals and what's good for health condition.
 It make it easier to make meals on the weekends
 My child is a very picky eater but does eat the mac-n-cheese and loves the juice boxes.
 Save on money, well balanced meals.
 It has provided basic meals when a trip to the store is not possible.
 It's very nice to have extra food. Sometimes don't have enough income for extra snacks for my son so that's it awesome that this program is available.
 Well she loves to come home on Friday and sees what she has she really enjoys it
 It helped with snacks and to learn how to make things themselves.
 My son enjoys getting extra healthy snacks and shares with his younger brother. And saves me money.
 It has helped, she really enjoys the snacks. God bless
 It gives us food to put on the table
 It has helped when money is a little short to make sure they have what they need.
 Kids enjoy receiving the bags and look forward to many of the items. Quick foods to prepare on the weekends-
 My son is a growing boy so it has helped with feeding him. I just wish they would change it up or give us more choices of different foods. Some he won't eat or anyone else in the household.
 thanks.
 My son loves to get it and bring it home
 It has help our family and children get the nutrition they need specially when we have a busy morning
 Shows some independance when they can make small meals together
 It has helped cuz I don't have to worry about the snacks so much, and if the refuse to eat what is made at home, than they have another choice.
 My kids like to eat like snack
 Help in nutrition
 They give the kids a healthy alternative to other junk foods. if we happen to expirience any hardships, it is nice to have this program.
 It has help us a lot and we still get ful off it and the kids love it. I am thankful for giving us the program. Thank you so much
 My kids are very picky eaters so with the variety of snacks and cereals you offer..they can try them and if they like them or eventually like them I can buy them in the store....
 My children enjoy the healthy snacks, it's nice to have a variety of healthy snacks for them.
 The food that my son brings home is so nice to have. I work two jobs and it is difficult some times to make meals. And the food you send is kid friendly for him to make. Thank you for such a wonderful program.

QUESTION 25 (continued)

My kids love it easy to grab food for brake fast some times the tops get crushed and Apple saus gets every were or fruit gets every thing wet favorite things ceral containers and bars for snacks love the tuna Mac and cheese oranges are loved fruit cocktail gets wasted pudding if chocolate not white my kids love juice boxes and if cheese came they would love it more my 5th grader is going to be going to Kati public charter next year and in sixth grade she will no longer get back pack food they don't have the program and I know a lot of kids that go to that school in 6 7 &8 grade that would really get a lot of use out of the program they are still to young to get jobs to help with shopping and get food for them selves but we are thankful for all the help we get from it tho so thank you a lot

It has come in handy when the kids want a snack and we don't have a lot for them to munch on. They enjoy the fruits and the crackers or a handful of the other little goodies. The only problem is that he only gets to bring home one bag and there are two younger siblings that always want to get into it as well, especially for the fact that they're not in school yet. The cereal has also been wonderful because of the selection. They like the fruity ones the best and I usually have to separate it out as evenly as possible to keep them all happy so they don't fight over it.

My child and I have had an interesting life but I would not choose anything different. We had left the father who was violent. This left us with little items personally and financially pinched. We do the best that we can. The help that we get with Back Pack Food Program allows us to stretch food in the home long enough to make ends meet. We are better today than we were 3 years ago. I would never change anything. I am very thankful for such great opportunities

It provides snack for my boys that are some what healthy. Thanks

this program has helped us out. It has made a difference. It is nice to know that when my son, gets hungry, there is food for him to eat. I am thankful for this program.

We love the food program it gives sometimes an idea what to serve on the table and has something to dig in the bag for snacks. Especially the Angie's pop corn.

The kids enjoy some foods more than others. Wondering if once a month the food could be completely different like fresh fruit and more whole foods instead of processed mac & cheese and ramen noodles, fruit cups and pudding. Consistent food isn't working very well. As much as I appreciate the food to help out, my 2 children don't always eat any of it and it builds up. A voucher for a loaf of bread from the bread store and a jar of peanut butter and jelly, a half gallon of milk or even a quart. The kids could at least try to make it themselves. Using the microwave is not always kid friendly. Less food but higher quality would be a nice change even every 8 weeks if it were possible.

I am disabled and unable to work. Depending on the price of food, sometimes I can't stretch the food stamps to the end of the month. This program helps a great deal- and my child loves it. Simple breakfast lunch and snacks

My kids love having snacks although they often argue about their packa and it makes it a little more challenging for my 3 yr old who is not in school and gets jealous

My husband and I have worked hard all our lives but our low wages made it difficult to make ends meet. The Back Pack Food Program helped so we didn't have to make late payments on bills to have money for groceries.

It's helped a lot

We really enjoyed getting the food especially the winter pack because it had such a variety of food choices. The only down fall I have found is that normally there is not a big varoey in the man meal so if a child doesn't like that it is what is probably put in the pack again and again. Ex: the Ramen noodles are something that is ok but are really salty and therefore my kids don't really care for them. They really liked the rice bowls and the microwavable vegetable and rice bowls as well. Thank you for helping all the kids with food!

It takes the pressure off having to find more money for food

It has helped me a lot cause i don't have to worry about my kids being unhealthy any more. i thank the Food Pack Program for all the great work their have been doing in feeding America. May God bless you all.

School lunches are not enough for my child. She is still hungry after lunch. She likes to keep the snacks with her in her locker or desk so that she may eat them when she's hungry during school.

It defiantly helps supplement snacks and lunches on the weekends when the kids are home. There is usually snacks left over and end up as after school snacks during the week.

Side note: I'm on a Facebook buy and sell site for mankato. Last weekend i saw a woman giving away food recived from this program. I could tell because it was the same that comes home with my kids. I would keep an eye out on social media for people doing that.

With my son who receives the program, has him really engaged in wanting to cook his own food w/ direction with me. I am extremely impressed how he shows me what to do, snacks to make on his own. He is 11, but I can tell how proud he is of himself doesn't take a lot of quidence from me, but even with that he is learning about food, calories, recipes, etc.

They get to eat a good meal at least once a day

Helped to bring the cost of food down and less worry/stress

Given food when needed

It has helped us out alot the extra food on weekends and breaks are a blessing wish all school kids can receive it. Thanks so much from my family to yours

My daughter loves getting them for the snacks and the breakfasts. I work retail so I work every weekend and can't always make breakfast

QUESTION 25 (continued)

My son uses the backpack food as his after school snacks.

Sometimes we couldn't provide snacks for my child. Backpack food program has really helped us a lot. Thank you!

It allows us to have items for snacks between actual meals which helps eliminate some of the need to have items we have purchased available easing resources for other items we may need.

Provides food on non-school days

it keep me from having to get up and fix them a snack when thy come home from school thy already have a healthy snack

Our family structure has changed in the last year so I'm now a single parent. Trying the Back Pack Food Program for the time this year- just to get that little added help.

-Helped cover costs for food especially making sure they got there main food groups. Helps cover the offset cost of food. Makes for a little less stress during my hardships.

Sometimes we run out of food but how we have food

Perfer not to say

Kids like it.

Helped us get some extra food in the house.

It has helped a lot with some breakfasts and most lunches. They are picky girls tho and won't eat some things like the hot cereal (oatmeal), chili, beans & wieners. Thanks for the help with the meals, they do help to make things less stressful.

I actually donate to the back pack program Its a really good thing :) thanks

It makes my son feel really happy to get the pack back food and he likes to share with his little brother and sister who's not in school yet then I have happy kids and it's food he likes so he eats it and enjoys it.

Helps provide extra food we don't have

Gives snacks and alternatives that are quite good for the kid on the weekends.

It has helped us in many ways.

At the end of the 2014-15 school year, we were finally on track financially, having paid off the majority of our debt. Then a little surprise baby came along (and a lot of unplanned medical bills) and with four other mouths to feed, and me not being able to work, money is beyond tight. My kids may not like everything that comes in the pack, but the majority of it helps us lower our grocery budget and makes sure the kids have something (semi) healthy to eat. I have not thrown away any of the food that they don't like, I'm stashing it and will donate it to another family (it's mostly just the instant oatmeal and the mixed fruit cups). Until I'm back to work full-time, your program helps us, and I thank you for that.

She has food she can make herself on the weekends and she really likes being able to make her own lunch.

Helps them have things to eat so they can have something to eat for the weekend.

It's helped me to supply my son with food.

It has helped my family knowing that if we are struggling to get food I know that he will get this every week and that helps. Also he really enjoys getting it.

I became disabled in 2005 and it took me almost a year to recover and another 2 years to get benefits. I work part time with no family close by. I have loving and helpful friends but they all work. So my child must have a babysitter, and that cost every time. Thankfully she is school age. So while waiting to get benefits I racked up debt. My son went to live with his Dad in 2012 and of course I stopped the child support. Sooo all the bills I was trying to pay off quickly, went to a slow crawl. Things are improving and the light at the end of the tunnel gets brighter. This program is a God send, even for afternoon snacks the next week when the month is more than the \$. I would stick with solid fruit cups though because my daughter, like most kids don't like fruit cocktail. Thank-you for this service. Mainly because when you are swamped with debt, the car must have fuel so one can get to work and many months food is not in the budget but staples like eggs, cheese, milk, bread.

It's good

The program has helped with provided small meals and snacks for our kids however, they are not interested in them as much anymore. The main reason of lost interest is the food is exactly the same week after week and it gets old fast. The program is a wonderful idea but having some changes in the food options would make it better.

He loves the food packs. He has his favorite things in there and some thing he doesn't like. I know that with the back pack program when money is tight he always has something to eat. I would like to know more about the summer feeding program.

It helps someway.

QUESTION 25 (continued)

It has helped a lot with paying bills and other stuff like that and with food

Just moved from out of state and very low on funds.

kids enjoy the items that come home in the pack , also the little snacks .

Being a single parent, it has helped supplement some of my food costs. I work full time. However, my income is very stretched due to bills and the cost of raising my son by myself.

The food helps a lot my kids love it and look forward to getting it the fruit sometimes gets punchcard and gets every were reck so rest of food so some times can't eat all of it applesauce gets all over and oat meal gets wet but it is Awsome

I am a full time teacher who recently had to leave my fiancé because of substance abuse issues and abuse from him. A deposit on a new place, furniture, utility deposits, etc created a temporary financial hardship. We don't qualify for any other assistance however. The backpack for food program has helped me get back on my feet where other programs denied me assistance. It was heartwarming to know someone cared. And when my daughter was experiencing difficulties with her father being gone, she always looked forward to the goodies she'd find in her backpack on Fridays.

My children love all of the variety of food that is sent home each Friday. Its nice to have something that they can just grab n eat when they like

It was after school snacks, and weekend snacks we could not afford, they we're very hungry waiting for dinner and they can now have a well rounded meal

My child is able to fix his own meals when home alone, and I know that there is always something in the house for him to eat.

My son does not like some of the food that gets sent home, so it ends up sitting in the cupboard or being re-donated to the food shelf.

Prefer not to.

It helps and feels good to get help with food

It has helped provide meals/snacks for my daughter, whom is a very picky eater and won't always eat what I've made for the rest of the family. She can always find something in the pack that she likes.

It helps my child be grateful of what he is getting when normally he wouldnt have the items.

We often find it difficult to have enough food in our house. Even with 2 parents working full time jobs our bills often take up most of our income leaving very little for left for groceries.

Thank you for helping us stretch our grocery funds.

It takes the worry off of me for finding a way to give them food over the weekend and breaks.

Children were happy to get the food, some of them I could not afford. Some food I do not have the skill to cook

Gives different options for them

It has helped SOOO much! Only recommendation would be being more discrete with the packaging. My 3rd grader gets bullied when receiving his package.

It really helps for her to have something quick knock on between meals. Sometimes they become one of the main meals of the day. Thank you so much for caring.

It provides my kids with simple easy food that they can prepare and eat

It helps feed my children & I truly appreciate it. Thank you

The kids live that they get it and the snacks are great. They really love the Mac and cheese. I sometimes can't afford a lit of snacks for them to have so it works out nicely for them to get the backpack food program. They don't always finish them over the weekend but continue to eat whatever's leftover throughout the week after school. Thank you!! It helps a lot!!!

Sometimes, it is hard for us to keep snacks in the house or quick and easy lunches. This program helps with both and allows a little bit more money to be put towards some of our other expenses so it is a buffer for us when we can't afford groceries or extras like snacks.

provides a healthy snack and food for the kids and offsets the cost of groceries.

It has helped with my grocery budget and also I'm doing less dishes which helps with the water usage.

It's nice to have that extra help and the kids love it because it is stuff they can make in their own

Boys look forward to juice box and snack when they get home on Fridays. Nice to not have to ration their snacks and this gives them the extra they need and want

The back pack food program it is very helpful for our family because sometimes is hard to buy enough food. Thank you.

It makes it easy for my child to snack

QUESTION 25 (continued)

We don't buy snacks very often. Not only are they expensive (healthy, not junk), but my pwill eat them so quickly (healthy or not) that they are gone in a couple day. In the summer, when fruits/veggies are cheaper (farmers market takes EBT) and we can grow our own garden, we have those items for snack Backpack Food Program gives my child snacks on the weekend that she can have around the same time of day that she would have snack during the week at school. The fact that she doesn't get the food until Friday helps to keep them in the house, so they are eaten when needed instead of whenever she feels like it.

It helps u don't have to buy so much

They look forward to a lot of the snacks that are provided. I don't really use them as a meal because I'm that mom that gives them something from every food group even if I know that they think that don't like it. I have the children but only one where the food program is available. (Montesori preschool and 4 kids ECFE preschool) My kids only like two kinds of the chef boyardee and there are a couple other things that are given that they refuse to eat but I really like that atleast two snack times for the kids are covered when my weekend starts. Thanks a million for the opportunity to participate in such a beneficial program!

Helps when I have the few days in between pay checks . Gives him a nice breakfast and a healthier option for snacks after school as well.

Gives food when we have none.

It has helped my teenage handicapped child be able to be more independent. The food in the pack is easier for him to use and with the limited choices it's easier to know what to eat as well.

Keeps belly happy.

This has helped make sure that my kids have stuff to eat

Keeps us fed. We are grateful!!

My child started in the Backpack Food Program at a time where our family was not only struggling financially but emotionally. The happiness felt when receiving the weekend packs was as important as the nutrition provided. The emotional family health is much improved and I thank the program for helping my child start their weekend with a positive vibe.

When we are unable to be home to cook them a meal they know they can eat something from the packet

I am so thankful! There have been some tough weeks financially and sometimes its just the boost we need to get through a few more days

Has provided a few extras on the weekends when we don't really stay on a tight schedule for meal times, or just would like a snack instead of a full meal. Helps cut out the need to buy fast food when we can make it at home

Much less complicated to figure out quick and easy meals and healthy snacks