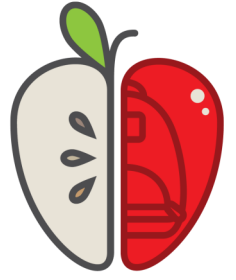


In This Issue >>>

Program Updates	1
Staff Highlight & Success Story	2
Summer Program & Endowment	3
The Snackpack Program	4

Kids Aid

The Backpack Program



Fall 2018 >>>

A community solution to *helping kids be kids*

HOPE NOT HUNGER

Staff:

Lindsay Anderson, Executive Director
Rachel Armour, Program Assistant

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IT'S OUR 11TH SCHOOL YEAR!

A special **THANK YOU** to everyone that makes the Backpack Program possible year after year. Thousands of children in our community depend on your generosity every weekend. Whether you volunteer your time, donate money, or spread awareness about local childhood hunger...

we couldn't do it without you!

School is back in session!

We have been working diligently to bridge the weekend food insecurity gap for our kids. As we continue to make strides in combating local, childhood hunger, we want to update you on our work and invite you back to join our mission. It's been an eventful year! Here are some highlights:

2017/2018 School Year Accomplishments



Added fresh apples and oranges to the menu!



Piloted Backpack Program in two daycare centers!



Served 49 Mesa County schools and Partners!



Distributed over 68,000 bags of food!

Your prior contributions helped us to lay the foundation of our current successes. Your continued support makes it possible for kids in our community to focus on being kids and not on empty bellies. Please join us again as we prepare to launch our 11th school year feeding kids!

www.kidsaidcolorado.org

Staff
Highlight



Kids Aid

The Backpack Program

I've been with Kids Aid since 2012 as a volunteer, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to move into the role of Program Assistant this year. I've seen Kids Aid through a lot of growth and change, and the warehouse crew has seen my own family grow and change just as much. They've known my oldest son since he was a year old and my youngest since he was born!

My nonprofit work began in Denver at a day shelter that advocated for the women and children they served in meaningful ways. I missed that work after my family moved back to Grand Junction, and I was feeling the pull to find a likeminded organization when I got to hear Mike Berry speak at my in-law's church one Sunday about his significant efforts with Kids Aid. It was the grassroots, community-centered nonprofit I was looking for.

I try to stay mindful of the privilege that it is to serve people in our community, meeting the needs of our brothers and sisters. We don't "have" to do this work, we get to. It's love in action, and I'm looking forward to spreading the Kids Aid love!



Rachel Armour
Program Assistant

Success Story:

Why we do what we do:

“ We have had so many parents that are grateful for the help. Children are so excited to get their bags each week. One grandma broke down and said this is really life saving. She had not been able to work because of illness and had no money for food for the 4 year old grandson that week because her check was so short and she had to pay rent. So, he was mainly eating at school and nothing until the next day.”

-Coreen Edwards

Wishes & Dreams Director

www.kidsaidcolorado.org

We Opened an Endowment Fund!

The Mike and Debbie Berry Fund for Kids Aid

Achieving self-sufficiency is a long-term goal for Kids Aid. This spring we took steps to start making that goal a reality. We are excited to announce that we have established an endowment fund, named after our founders, through the **Western Colorado Community Foundation**. The endowment is a permanent, invested fund which builds interest that will create a dependable revenue stream. A contribution to our endowment fund helps ensure that the hungry children in our community are fed long into the future. Kids Aid is dedicated to our community and with your support plans to fulfill our mission of combating local, childhood hunger long into the future.

Contact Lindsay if you would like Kids Aid to be a part of your planned giving.

970-712-2847 | lindsay@kidsaidcolorado.org

SUMMER '18

- Over **11,700** bags distributed!
- **4,500** bags distributed last summer
- Over **600** volunteer hours!
- **30** locations for **9** weeks

**Thank you, volunteers and funders
for another successful summer!**

THANK YOU!

Legacy Wealth Management helped us purchase new packing tables for the warehouse! The beautiful new tables will replace the stacks of old pallets we were using to pack bags.

Stop by and check them out!

Introducing ...

The Snackpack Program

We're Growing!

The Snackpack Program has dual purposes:

1. Provide snacks to students at school during the school week.
2. Alleviate the financial burden on teachers that purchase snacks for students.

Kids Aid purchases snacks through Food Bank of the Rockies at a highly discounted rate compared to grocery store prices. We want to pass those savings onto teachers that are using their own money or school funds to purchase food for students. We are piloting the program in five elementary schools with hopes of opening it up to all schools pending funding and volunteers.

We're looking for volunteers and sponsors to launch this new program.
970-712-2847 | lindsay@kidsaidcolorado.org

Contact us if you'd like to get involved.

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Kids Aid
The Backpack Program

2978 Gunnison Avenue
Grand Junction, CO 81504