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Winter 2019 >>>

A community solution to *helping kids be kids*

Hope NOT Hunger

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Special Thanks:

Thank you to **Cindy Ortiz**, with St. Mary's Medical Center, for collaborating with the Backpack Program to feed hungry children over school breaks. Cindy and her incredible children volunteered to travel the Lunch Lizard routes in the St. Mary's mobile van over winter break to deliver our food bags to hungry kids. While the cold weather was not on our side, we look forward to trying again over spring break.

You're our Hunger Hero!

New Collaborative Volunteer Opportunity

Help two organizations at once by dehydrating fruit at the Food Bank of the Rockies for the Backpack Program.

One of our favorite items to put in our weekend food bags is the dehydrated fruit we receive from the Food Bank of the Rockies. It's a delicious and healthy snack that the kids love. Kim Halladay runs the dehydration room at Food Bank of the Rockies and dehydrates everything from apples and bananas to pineapples. She also makes fruit leathers with a variety of fruits; plums, strawberries, blueberries, bananas, and the well sought after Palisade peaches. Another perk to the dehydrated fruit is the cost: **FREE!** As you can imagine, feeding around 2,000 kids a week requires a lot of fruit! **The Food Bank of the Rockies could use our help dehydrating all of this fruit for our kids.**

Dehydrate Fruit at the Food Bank of the Rockies for Kids Aid

8:00am-4:30pm Monday-Friday

To Sign up, fill out a quick application at:

<https://www.foodbankrockies.org/western-slope-volunteer/>

Contact Kim at 970-200-9896 or Betty at 970-464-1138

The fruit that is dehydrated by Kids Aid volunteers goes directly into our food bags. When you volunteer on our behalf, the Food Bank of the Rockies will also credit our account \$50 for three hours of volunteer time per group. When our monthly food bill costs average \$20,000, every penny counts! This is a great volunteer opportunity for groups and/or individuals that like to work with food.

Thank you for helping us provide healthy snack options and for supporting the Food Bank of the Rockies fulfill our growing need.

Weekly Menu Example

Chicken
Refried Beans
Vegetable Soup
Ramen Noodles
Macaroni and Cheese
Oatmeal
Cereal
Dehydrated Fruit
Crackers

Many considerations go into our food bag menus each week. From the nutritional content, the ability to combine items to make meals, cost, to the weight of the bags. Each bag holds nine items: two breakfast items, two lunch items, two to three dinner items, and snacks. Below is one example of what you can find in our food bags each weekend.



LOVE IS THE BEST INGREDIENT.

Donor Highlight



In remembrance of
Chuck and Jeanie Thomas

Kids Aid was awarded a gift from the late Chuck and Jeanie Thomas that was generously matched with a grant from the Grand Junction Rotary Club. Helen Sweeney, Jeanie's sister, visited the warehouse soon after to spend some time sharing stories about her sister and brother-in-law and their heart for music and children.

Charles "Chuck" and Jeanie Thomas were well known in the community for their love and undeniable passion for playing music and dancing. They settled in Grand Junction in the 1970s after years on the road performing together. They quickly became involved in the community and were well known at local venues. From playing the accordion at JUCO games to singing telegrams to founding the Grand Junction Dance Club, their musical talents are threaded throughout our local history.

While Chuck and Jeanie did not have their own children, they recognized the importance of passing along their talents to the younger generations. They would attend the concerts of music students and stick around to give compliments at the end of the performances.

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"I fondly remember the first time Mike Berry, our founder, invited me as a guest to my first Grand Junction Rotary Club meeting. Jeanie was playing the piano as everyone settled in before the meeting. Her music instantly filled me with joy as I entered the room. What a beautiful reminder to stay present and enjoy the beauty in every moment. Thank you, Jeanie, for the gift of music and your heart for kids."

—Lindsay Anderson, ED



Mike and Debbie Berry Kids Aid Endowment Fund

Kids Aid was honored to receive a contribution from the Robert N. Gaby Estate to help build our endowment fund. While we did not get the opportunity to meet Robert and thank him for his donation, we had a plaque made to honor his memory and the legacy he left behind through Kids Aid. Robert served in the Navy during World War II as an aviation ordnance man. He flew on a PBY aircraft with search and rescue. After his discharge, Robert worked at the Colorado State Hospital before starting a long career, as a clerk, for the CF & I in Pueblo. Robert and the love of his life Mildred "Millie", enjoyed their retirement square dancing and traveling in their RV. He was an avid reader and was in the process of writing a book before his passing. In his own words, Robert would like to be remembered as **"Uncle Bob to some, Bob your friend, and lastly, Bob who loves you all!"** Thank you, Mr. Gaby, on behalf of the Kids Aid staff, board, volunteers, and thousands of children and youth that will benefit from your contribution.

The endowment is a permanent, invested fund which builds interest that will create a dependable revenue stream dedicated to feeding kids long into the future.



The Snackpack Program

Since the launch of The Snackpack Program in mid-September 2018, **more than 100,000 snacks have been distributed to our five pilot schools!** The Snackpack Program provides one snack a day at school for **any** hungry child. We're currently serving Chipeta, Clifton, Dos Rios, Nisley, and Rocky Mountain Elementary Schools. **Just like the Backpack Program, if you're hungry, we feed you.** There are no enrollment forms to help remove any barriers to participating with the program.

The Snackpack Program benefits more than just hungry learners. The teachers that used to purchase snacks for students out of their own pockets now have help. While it is not a teacher's responsibility to provide snacks for students, many do. Grocery store prices can add up quickly when you're feeding a classroom. Through the impressive purchasing power through Food Bank of the Rockies, **most of the snacks cost about a penny.** Yes, you read that correctly; just one cent for a granola bar or a package of crackers. **For the cost of a few boxes of granola bars, Kids Aid can purchase an entire pallet!** We're grateful to be able to pass on our savings to teachers and students.



Snacks vary each week. The above snacks meet the USDA Smart Snack Guidelines.

Rocky Mountain Elementary school recently joined the Snackpack Program. While delivering snacks, we met a teacher that was using the program for the first time. One of his students just told him that she was hungry and didn't have a snack. He felt guilty that he didn't have one to give to her. Remembering the new Snackpack program, he came down to grab one for the little girl and a box of reserves so he'd be prepared for other hungry students. Before leaving he said, **"Thank you. This is an incredible program."**



Connect With Us On Social Media



/KidsAid



#KidsAidColorado



Updated Mailing Address

Kids Aid

**2978 Gunnison Avenue
Grand Junction, CO 81504**

Please note our address change from our PO Box to our physical location. Warehouse tours and visits are available by appointment.

To schedule a tour or visit call 970-210-8754 or email admin@kidsaidcolorado.org.

Save the Date

Join us June 7th at Lincoln Park for the second annual Summer Meals Kickoff! Come for a free day of games in the park, learn where to find meals over the summer, enjoy lunch from the Lunch Lizard, win prizes, swim at the Lincoln Park Pool (kids can earn a free pass!), and find out what activities are happening over summer. Stay tuned into our social media and website for upcoming details. See you there!



www.kidsaidcolorado.org

Kids Aid 
Only hungry to learn!