



## The Situation In Maricopa County



**1 in 4 children experiences hunger, unsure of where their next meal is coming from**



- When children are hungry they cannot focus in class, putting them behind their classmates. This brings stress and anxiety into the classroom for the student, their peers, and the teacher, impacting the entire learning environment.
- Some children rely on school for all their meals and may not have access to nutritious food at home over the weekends.

## The Solution: WeekEnd Hunger Backpacks

Thanks to our generous donors, kids have food over the weekend and come to school Monday ready to learn. WeekEnd Hunger Backpacks are a way for children in food insecure homes to discreetly receive meals for their family before leaving school for the weekend. After we fill plastic bags with the items needed, thanks to the help of our volunteers, we deliver these bags to local schools each Friday so they can be taken home in a child's backpack at the end of the day.



**"Some of these parents are so stressed; it's a matter of survival. Anything we can take off their plate, we do. Our students receive WeekEnd Hunger Backpacks to help sustain them through the weekend."**

– Heather, Hartford Sylvia Encinas, Principal





## Ending hunger in Maricopa County

### Our Impact

- More than 786,000 meals since 2011
- We partner with 11 schools to provide weekend meals to their students

### Our Goal

- Engage volunteers in 10 WeekEnd Hunger Backpack assemblies **per year**
- Provide 131,040 meals in a year

## How Can I Help?



### Support a Student

These backpacks wouldn't be possible without the help of our generous donors. Just one backpack makes a big difference for the family that receives it each weekend throughout the school year.



### Support a Class

If one just isn't enough for you, bundle weekend meals for multiple kids!

## Volunteer Opportunities



### Backpack Assembly

Join us to put the food items together in the bags, in preparation for delivery.



### Backpack Delivery

Available each Friday during the school year, deliver the meal bags to the schools so they are available for teachers to give out to their students at the end of the school day in preparations for the weekend.

Contact us at [info@vsuw.org](mailto:info@vsuw.org) to get started!

