



For Immediate Release  
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**Barrington Children's Charities' Blessings in a Backpack Program  
to Maintain Food Availability During COVID-19 School Closings**

BARRINGTON, IL – Barrington Children's Charities (BCC) supports and funds the Blessings in a Backpack food program for local children from food insecure homes. Each week over 750 children in need receive food to take home from school for weekend consumption. With the current unprecedented school closings due to the COVID-19 virus, BCC has moved quickly to continue to make food available to our Blessings in a Backpack participants in Barrington School District 220.

In District 220's early learning center, eight elementary schools, two middle schools and high school; approximately 19% of the student population lives in food insecure homes. BCC understands the critical role that our Blessings in a Backpack program serves in providing food support for these families.

BCC's Co-Founder Darby Hills quickly communicated with District 220's Dr. Harris, other district administrators and school board members to develop a plan to adjust availability of the weekend food bags during this time. BCC "Blessings" program for Barrington's School District 220 will immediately operate as follows:

- The program will be packed by volunteers and district staff
- Food package quantity will be doubled from 750 to nearly 1,500 to meet additional demand during this difficult time
- Each food package will have additional food items, versus the current program, and include foods with a longer shelf life
- The menu includes a protein food, soup, pasta, fruit, snacks, vegetables and more.
- Food packages this week will be available either on Thursday 3/19 or Friday 3/20 (not available both days – please check Barrington Children's Charities Facebook or Instagram pages for exact details)
- Food packages will be available with "curbside" or "drive-thru" pick up at Sunny Hill Elementary School parking lot
- Notification to all qualifying family members will be sent out by Barrington School District 220

"Our Blessings in a Backpack program expenses during this time are more than double of the current program," says Darby Hills. "We are making this investment to help local children get the food they need during this challenging time."

The Barrington Children's Charities is an essential needs non-profit charitable organization of dedicated men and women working together to positively impact the lives of children in the Barrington and surrounding communities. Run entirely by volunteers, Barrington Children's Charities donates monies raised to support and address the social, emotional, physical and educational needs of children within the District 220 area and chooses its beneficiaries based on need.

If you are able to donate please visit: [www.barringtonchildrenscharities.com/donate](http://www.barringtonchildrenscharities.com/donate)

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