

**BECKER BACKPACK BUDDIES**  
**Group Exemption #9386**  
**FAQ's**

**WHAT IS IT?** A program that provides school aged children with nutritious, easy-to-prepare meals, for weekends and holidays.

**HOW MANY CHILDREN ARE IN THE PROGRAM?** Currently we support 209 children across all platforms from pre-school through high school in the Becker MN area.

**WHO DECIDES WHICH STUDENTS GET THE FOOD?** Social workers and school employees identify students at risk in conjunction with state free and reduced guidelines. Each recipient is completely anonymous to the group packing.

**HOW DOES IT WORK?** Every Friday, during the school year, a shoebox size bag of kid-friendly, easy to prepare foods are sent home with students in need. These bags are distributed by the school counselors and administrators.

**HOW IS THE PROGRAM FUNDED?** The program is run totally off donations. **100%** of all financial contributions made to the Backpack Buddies program are used to obtain food.

**WHAT IS THE ANNUAL BUDGET?** Our annual budget is \$20k. Our need, including a summer program, is \$35k. Obviously, we need support from our corporate and community partners.

**HOW CAN WE HELP?** Please consider the accompanying request to support the Pebble Creek Women's Club as they sponsor their annual Guest Day Fundraiser, July 28, 2015, with all funds raised going to the Backpack Buddies.

Financial contributions payable to: **PCWC/BBB.**

Mail to: **Pebble Creek Women's Club, PO Box 250, Becker MN 55308; Attention Bettina Potter**

**WHO RUNS THE PROGRAM?** The Board of Directors and program administration is operated on a completely volunteer basis. Volunteers from the community and area ministries come together to pack the food bags for distribution.

**HOW WAS IT STARTED?** The need was identified by the South Santiago Lutheran Church. The program has been so successful that area communities have employed this model.

Becker Backpack Buddies contributions are exempt under group number #9386.

The process of obtaining a separate 501c3 designation for Becker Backpack Buddies is underway. South Santiago Lutheran Church is on the official roster of congregations affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), recognized under their group exemption ruling and is therefore a Minnesota 501c3 organization.