

July 17, 2013

The Deubrook Backpack Project was begun in October 2011 and provides three nutritious meals and healthy snacks per day over weekends when meals are not available through the school for children attending the Deubrook Area Public Schools. These children are from families living in the White, Astoria, and Toronto areas of South Dakota and Hendricks area of Minnesota. The Deubrook Backpack Project provides food throughout the school-year, generally 38 weeks, including the weekends of holidays and extended breaks.

For a program such as this to be successful in the long term, it is important that there be community awareness and support. Various individuals from the area are being asked to serve on the Board. Information is available at both the grade school and high school. There is an online presence through a website and Facebook.

Enclosed are several brochures giving a brief overview of the Deubrook Backpack Project. We ask that you make copies and distribute as you see appropriate for your setting. The members of the Board would be glad to meet with you or a group to highlight the program and to answer questions.

There are many opportunities to help.

- ⌚ Building awareness of the project is primary. It is important that families of those children and youth who may benefit from the Deubrook Backpack Project let the school know their need. This is an extremely confidential matter, and only the family and the Superintendent know which families are recipients.
- ⌚ It is equally important that the communities are aware of the Deubrook Backpack Project so that they may support it. In order for the Project to meet the needs of those it is serving, funds must be raised. We have been able to keep costs low so that each week's backpack is around \$5. In order to provide food bags for the school year, approximately \$200 must be raised for each child served. 100% of every dollar goes to purchase food.
- ⌚ There are Packing Parties in which the backpacks are put together for delivery.
- ⌚ There is a September 13 fundraiser (tail-gate party) at the home football game at Deubrook Area Public Schools (the High School) where we will need volunteers to help serve food.



While the Deubrook Backpack Project was begun under the auspices of the White United Methodist Church, it has been the intention that this project would be community-wide.

If you have any questions, or would like one of us to speak with you or with a group, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Blessings,

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