

Report to the All-Church Conference on October 7, 2014
The AWSUM Churches of Aurora-White-Sterling United Methodist Churches

Deubrook Backpack Program

The Deubrook Backpack Project provides weekend meals for children of school age from families in the Deubrook Area Public Schools in need of another food resource. The program provides three nutritious meals and two healthy snacks per day over weekends when meals are not available through the school year. Studies from other schools involved in similar programs conclude that participating students are absent from school less, pay better attention in class, concentrate harder on their lessons, perform better academically, and exhibit fewer behavioral problems than they did previously.

As the program becomes better known through the schools, we anticipate larger involvement, particularly with elementary school-age children; it was originally projected that we would have 20 to 25 participants. The identities of the participants in the program are kept confidential. White UMC purchases, packages, and delivers the food to the schools, where it is distributed to the participants.

The Deubrook Backpack Project served:

- nine children in the 2011-2012 academic year
- thirteen children (44% increase) in the 2012-2013 academic year
- fifteen children (25% increase) in the 2013-2014 academic year
- at the beginning of the 2014-2015 academic year, we are serving twelve children

Financial Report

After initial fund drive	\$2,546.00	
+Donations 2011 (Oct-Dec)	\$ 923.19	
- Expenses	<u>(\$ 412.35)</u>	
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Balance as of December 2011	\$ 3,056.84	
+Donations (Jan-Sept 2012)	\$ 1,290.75	
- Expenses (Jan-Sept 2012)	<u>(\$ 1,848.33)</u>	
Balance October 1, 2012	\$2,499.26	reported at 2012 Conference
+ Deposits	\$3,598.00	
- Expenses	<u>(\$ 2,288.24)</u>	
Balance as of October 1, 2013	\$3,809.02	reported at 2013 Conference
+ Deposits (Sept 1-Aug 30)	\$4,928.87	
- Expenses (Sept 1-Aug 30)	<u>(\$2,717.08)</u>	
Balance as of September 1, 2014	\$ 6,020.81	

Deubrook Backpack cost: \$ 5.00 per child per week
 \$ 190.00 per child per 38 week school year
 \$2280.00 for the twelve currently being served

It has been the hope that the DBP would be able to maintain sufficient funds for two years at a time; we have two years of funds. This allows fundraising to continue in a methodical but not frantic pace. Funding is derived from a variety of sources.

- A Tailgate Party was held as a fundraiser for the September 5, 2014 Deubrook-Dell Rapids football game. Walking Tacos, chips, bars and drinks were served. Similar numbers were served this year as were served at the 2013 football game. (240 people were served with 280 sandwiches being made. 38 volunteers worked 111 hours.) A \$1500.00 grant was received through the Larson Foundation.
- The Deubrook Backpack Committee helped serve the Alumni Banquet for \$100 on July 19, 2014.
- A successful ice cream social was hosted by Thrivent of Deuel County at the Deubrook Elementary Concert Thursday, April 10th. Donations in the amount of \$549.87 were received. Thrivent added an additional \$300.00 A total of \$849.87 was raised for the Deubrook Backpack Project.
- Financial support has come from fundraising, community organizations, community churches, and private donations.

The policy manual for DBP was completed the summer of 2013. The following are on the Committee and primary tasks are listed as noted.

Deubrook Backpack Project Chairperson	Rev. Martha Brandt
White UMC Member at Large	Robert Oda
Deubrook Backpack Project Working Coordinator	Judy Smith
Secretary	Gerry Schmidt
Financial Treasurer	Gerry Schmidt
School Liaison	Cindy Schmidt & Judy Smith
Publicity Coordinator	TBA
Fundraising Coordinators	TBA
Packing Party Coordinators	Cindy Schmidt & Teresa Pomrenke
Delivery Coordinator	Gerry Schmidt
Food Coordinator	Judy Smith
Community Liaison members:	
White (not from White UMC)	Loren & Kathy McKinney
Toronto	Mona Landmark
Astoria	Jennifer Olson
Hendricks	
Other	Shari Landmark

The White United Methodist Church received a letter dated October 9, 2012 from the General Council on Finance and Administration (Nashville, TN) notifying the Church of Certification of Inclusion in The United Methodist Church Group Tax Exemption Ruling.

Awareness is being built throughout the community via newspaper articles, school liaison, community liaisons, and school events.