FOCUS Bridgeport September Update

Volunteer Opportunities

Fall is full of opportunities to get involved with FOCUS! We're ramping up our Beardsley snack bag program so that every child—325 to be exact!—receives a nourishing snack bag each time we visit. We'll also make and serve dinner to Beardsley families in October, hold a food drive for Thanksgiving, and a toy drive for Christmas. The rhythm of our monthly Community Meals will continue, giving us an opportunity to offer a hot meal, clothing, and a welcoming connection to our neighbors. Come when you can, bring a friend, and find a way to serve that works for you. Our programs are scheduled on weekdays, weeknights, and weekends!

See more about our upcoming opportunities to help
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/FOCUSBridgeport

Sign Up QR Code

Help us fill our snack bags for hungry children.

One simple way to help is through our FOCUS Amazon Wish List, where you can purchase items that we regularly need.

SHOP OUR AMAZON WISH

Don't shop on Amazon? You can shop for these items at your favorite grocery store or warehouse club and arrange a drop-off with us. We're looking for nourishing, individually packaged, shelf-stable, nut-free foods, including:

🍎 Fresh fruit — apples, oranges, pears, and bananas
🍏 Unsweetened applesauce cups or pouches, fruit cups packed in water or 100% juice
🍇 Raisins or other dried fruit in individual packages

🥨 Whole-grain pretzels, crackers, popcorn
🍓 Fruit and grain bars — please choose nut-free varieties
🧃 100% fruit juice boxes

Please check labels carefully for peanuts, tree nuts, and “may contain” warnings.
Contact Linda Kolton to schedule a drop off: Lkolton@focusna.org

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Backpacks for Beardsley!

FOCUS is possible because so many people continue to say yes!

Thank you to everyone who supported our Backpack Challenge. The outpouring of generosity from churches and individuals across the region was absolutely incredible!

Our backpack distribution day at the end of August was a wonderful celebration of generosity and seeing God's love in action! Over the summer, teens and volunteers helped unpack, sort, and organize hundreds of backpacks and school supplies in preparation for distribution day. Father Mark performed a blessing that included not only the backpacks, but the students, teachers, administrators, and everyone who was involved in this tremendous effort!

When the big day arrived, volunteers filled one side of the cafeteria with backpacks and the other with tables of supplies, everything from notebooks and crayons to socks (thanks, Bombas!) and toothbrushes. Our volunteers welcomed families, helped children choose their backpacks and supplies, and made the experience feel like shopping for school. The smiles of the children and parents made our hearts swell with gratitude for what this community accomplished.

Our backpacks also made it to the children at Luis Muñoz Marín School, where FOCUS ran our summer lunch program. The principal and staff were thrilled to be included and deeply grateful.

These backpacks became so much more than school supplies. They became an opportunity for us to live out our faith and show our kids that God–and their community cares about them. God bless everyone for being a part of this wonderful initiative!