

## Centennial Community Backpack Program 2024 Report



We are proud to celebrate the **29th year** of this program! In the spring of 2024, Centennial School District staff registered students in need for free school supplies in each of the district's schools.

**245** elementary student backpacks were adopted and packed by **87** individuals and **5/6** businesses/programs in the community! Adopters received their student's actual school supply list, then purchased exactly what that student needed along with a hand-selected backpack. We are very grateful for our adopters! The cost of filling an average backpack with needed supplies is \$60-\$120 depending on the school and grade.

**110** middle school backpacks and **77** high school backpacks were packed by our team of volunteers. Pines School also received supplies for **40** students. These supplies and backpacks were donated or purchased using monetary donations to the program. In addition to the backpacks filled with supplies, each of the elementary schools, as well as CALC, ECFE, and Indian Education received supplies donated through school supply drives and our adopters. We are very grateful to those who donated supplies, our grantors, and other financial donors who made backpack and supply purchases possible.

The backpacks and supplies were distributed to the schools and the backpacks were made available for the students to pick up at their "back to school" nights prior to the first day of school. **472** Centennial District students were served directly by this program!

Our program has evolved to a two-pronged approach— adoption of elementary backpacks and purchase and packing of middle school and high school backpacks with supplies. This approach allows us to reach as many students as possible, while eliminating the need to store a large amount of supplies year to year. **Thank you, Community Supporters!**

**Without you, this program would not be possible!**

**Individual adopters and donors**

**Businesses/program adopters and donors:**

- ❖ Houlihan Lokey
- ❖ Capital City Glass
- ❖ Centennial Community Education
- ❖ Kids' Club Summer Sites
- ❖ Centennial High School National Honor Society
- ❖ Pilot Pens- Mark Puppolo

**Grantors:**

- ❖ Centennial Area Education Foundation
- ❖ Our Savior's Lutheran Church Endowment Fund

**School Supply Drive Sponsors:**

- ❖ City of Blaine
- ❖ F & M Bank
- ❖ Lino Lakes Police Department - Night to Unite
- ❖ SMW Financial Credit Union
- ❖ St. Mark's Lutheran Church

**Program Team:** Donna Norberg, Pat Feine, Mina Ferden, Traci Capistrant, and Juli Smith.

**Consultant:** Amy Minear

**Volunteers:** Nancy and Dave Bartkowicz, Pat Benoy, Sally Brown, Kris and Dan Cafferty, Megan Fritz, Katie Guthmueller, Suzy Guthmueller, Laurie Karp, Lainey Minear, Karen Moberg, Vickie Molin, Sarah Williams, Amy Grundtner's confirmation group, and others.

**Centennial School District Staff:** Martha Arlandson, Kathy Berrios-Cordero, Elizabeth Betterley, Dani Bevins, Kali Gschwind, Gisela Gomez De Murillo, Leyla Elmi, Ramla Iman, Nicole Oertel, Cori Sendle, Stephanie Spencer, Matt Thao, Sara Verke, and others.

**Project Sponsor:** Our Savior's Lutheran Church