

Centennial Community Backpack Program 2025 Report



We are proud to celebrate the **30th year** of our program! In the spring of 2025, Centennial School District staff registered students in need for free school supplies in each of the district's schools.

232 elementary and **20** high school student backpacks were adopted and packed by **92** individuals and **6** community organizations. Adopters received a supply list specific to their student, then purchased and packed a backpack with all the items on the list. The cost of filling an average backpack with needed supplies is \$60-\$120 depending on the school and grade. We are very grateful for our adopters!

144 middle school backpacks and **80** more high school backpacks were packed by our team of volunteers. In addition, CALC received supplies for **80** students, and Pines School received supplies for **40** students. Each middle school backpack with supplies costs approximately \$100. Each high school backpack with supplies costs approximately \$70. These supplies and backpacks were donated or purchased using monetary donations of over **\$13,500** to the program by more than **34** individual donors and **6** organizations. We are thankful for the financial support!

In addition to the backpacks filled with supplies, each of the elementary schools, as well as 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.

Our program also heavily relies on the more than 30 volunteers who contribute their time and talents, as well as adopters and financial supporters. We appreciate their donation of time!

The backpacks and additional 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. Over **475** Centennial District students were served directly by this program!

92 Individual adopters
34 Individual donors

Thank you, Community Supporters!
Without you, this program would not be possible!

Business/Organization Donors:

- ❖ Centennial Area Chamber of Commerce Member
 - Renstrom Dental Studio
- ❖ Centennial High School National Honor Society
- ❖ Heidi Kingman Presents ... SOLUTIONS
- ❖ Houlihan Lokey
- ❖ St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Business/Organization Adopters:

- ❖ Capital City Glass
- ❖ Centennial Community Education
- ❖ Centennial Evangelical Free Church
- ❖ Friendship Place
- ❖ Houlihan Lokey
- ❖ Kids' Club Summer Sites

School Supply Drive Sponsors:

- ❖ Blue Heron Dental Care
- ❖ City of Blaine
- ❖ Centennial Area Chamber of Commerce Members
 - Renstrom Dental Studio
 - Nicole Olson - Edward Jones
 - Jen Korus- State Farm Agency
- ❖ Culver's of Lino Lakes
- ❖ F & M Bank
- ❖ Lino Lakes Police Department - Night to Unite
- ❖ SMW Financial Credit Union
- ❖ St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Grantors:

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

Fund

Volunteer Team: Paula Andrzejewski, Nancy Bartkowicz, Pat Benoy, Kelsey Brown, Kris Cafferty, Traci Capistrant, Renee Dietz, Pat Feine, Roy Feine, Mina Ferden, Joyce Finch, Jeff Fritz, Megan Fritz, Katie Guthmueller, Suzy Guthmueller, Laurie Karp, Heidi Kingman, Terri Lass, Beth Malark, Ken McDonald, Monica McDonald, Karen Moberg, Bill Norberg, Donna Norberg, Joy Rauner, Juli Smith, Bob Zaske, Jeanne Zaske, Centennial High School National Honor Society Members and others.

Centennial School District Staff: Kathy Berrios-Cordero, Sheri Bolkcom, Tanya Buescher, Jess Corcoran, Dani Bevins, Timothy Fleming, Sue Fried, Emma Gannon, Gisela Gomez De Murillo, Kazoua Her, Lindsay Hubbard, Denise Hudgens, Leyla Elmi, Ramla Iman, Mary Kupfer, Sarah McNamara, Judy Montain, Nicole Oertel, Shane Rasmussen, Kelly Romano, Cori Sendle, Stephanie Spencer, Matt Thao, Sara Verke, Tracy Wikstrom and others.

Project Founder and Sponsor:

Our Savior's Lutheran Church