

For Immediate Release

Contact:
Janice Saar
Resource Development Director
304.340.3500

United Way of Central WV partnering with Backpack Blessings to feed children in the Elkview and Clendenin areas

(Charleston, W.Va.) July 6, 2016 — United Way of Central West Virginia will be supporting the Elk River Back Pack Blessings program as they re-establish their operations. The program's supplies and materials were housed at the United Methodist Church in Clendenin, which was severely damaged during the recent flooding.

Backpack Blessings is a non-profit program started four years ago by retired Herbert Hoover High School teacher Debi O'Dell. It provides food on the weekends for elementary school children who might otherwise go hungry by mobilizing communities, individuals, and resources.

The current priority is to collect the following items to assemble and distribute as Flood Relief Bags for Kids:

Applesauce cups	Graham crackers
Breakfast cereal bars	Juice
Bug Spray for Kids	Nutrigrain bars
Canned pasta with meat	Pudding or Fruit Cups
Canvas Totes	Shampoo (3 in 1)
Chips (small bags)	Slim Jims
Cookies (small bags)	Soup - Chicken Noodle and Vegetable
Crackers - cheese crackers	Squeeze Fruits
Flavored water	Sunscreen for Kids
Fruit such as apples	

Donations can be dropped off to the United Way of Central WV beginning Wednesday, July 6 thru Thursday, July 14th from 8am to 4pm. United Way drop off contact is Mendi Harkins mharkins@unitedwaycwv.org or 304-340-3500.

Drop Off Address:
One United Square
Charleston, WV 25301
(on the corner of Court and Smith Streets).

“The United Way of Central WV is proud to support critical children’s food programs such as Elk River Back Pack Blessings, especially during this time of reestablishment. The effects of hunger are much more than just a growling stomach. Poor nutrition results in weaker immune systems, increased hospitalizations, shorter attention spans, and lower academic achievement. With the community’s help, we can assist Elk River Back Pack Blessings in becoming operational once again,” said John Ballengee, United Way of Central WV President.

For more information, please contact Janice Saar at (304) 340-3500 or jsaar@unitedwaycwv.org.

-30-

ABOUT UNITED WAY OF CENTRAL WEST VIRGINIA: *United Way of Central West Virginia is a volunteer-led, volunteer-driven organization representing Boone, Clay, Logan, Kanawha and Putnam counties. From the board of directors to fundraising volunteers to others who lend a hand each year, all ensure United Way continues to make an impact on the issues that matter most. United Way of Central West Virginia is dedicated to making sure children and youth achieve their potential through access to quality educational programs; promoting financial stability and independence; improving people’s health. By encouraging all people in central West Virginia to give, advocate or volunteer, United Way wants to show the power of “living united”. For more information, visit www.unitedwaycwv.org or call 304.340.3500.*