

**UNITED WE FIGHT.
UNITED WE WIN.**

LIVE UNITED

United We Fight for Food Security!

Last year 444,239 meals were distributed through food security programs funded by Centre County United Way dollars. The YMCA of Centre County runs one of these programs. The Backpack Weekend Food Program currently serves youth in the Bald Eagle, Bellefonte, Penns Valley, Philipsburg, and State College School Districts. Every Friday during the school year, participating students go home with meals and snacks to get them through the weekend.



The Bald Eagle Area Superintendent speaks highly of the program that affects many of his students:

“The YMCA Backpack program not only benefits the individual students in desperate need of nutritious meals over the weekend but has evolved to include the entire Bald Eagle Area School District. Kids get it, they understand, often faster than the adults do. We have groups of students that have dedicated fundraisers and volunteer to help pack for the Backpack Program. This program has contributed to unifying the student body, more so than anything we have done to this date. As adults, few of us have experienced what hunger does to you. I often reference when wrestling as a high school student. One or two days without food and hunger consume you; you cannot think of anything else but food. These children cannot choose, but I could! The awareness that the program has created is maybe the most powerful message. Unless we truly get to know our students, you may never know or understand the hardships that some of the children face each and every day. “

When you donate to Centre County United Way, your gift supports hundreds of programs with proven results and outcomes. Your money is going directly to fund programs and not just to an agency to spend as they choose. **UNITED WE WIN.**