



# Bremerton Backpack Brigade

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# AUGUST

I HOPE YOU ALL ARE ENJOYING THIS EXTRODINARY SUMMER AS MUCH AS I AM!!!!

Even in "the dog days of August", September is just around the corner and we're getting excited about a new school year. You all remember last year, how the "job description" of our work together changed and changed again (and then changed a few more times!) and YOU, our wonderful volunteers met every challenge. We don't yet know what kind of new challenges may be in store for us during this new school year, but we do know your dedication to meet the needs of hungry children in our community gives us great confidence we'll handle whatever comes our way with great grace because that's just who our volunteers are and how you operate.

The best thing we know so far about this upcoming school year is the children will be in person at school! For the Brigade volunteers that means we'll be delivering personalized, labeled backpacks of food directly to the schools for the kids to carry home. We should be ready to start by mid to late September. The September Newsletter will have exact dates.

For the last two years, the incredible counselors and interventionists from each elementary school have delivered the bags of food directly to the families we serve. This year, they will get to go back to being interventionists and counselors and not delivery people for the Brigade!! Our gratitude for all their hard work has no bounds. The truth is, Brigade might not have survived without their dedication to make sure our kids got the food they needed.

Last year, many of the families we served received stimulus help because of COVID and the number of families needing food from the Brigade was greatly diminished. Until enrollment forms come in, we won't know what our numbers will look like for this year, but with your help we'll do our best to be ready.



Here's some fun things happening, as we get ready for school to start.



# Share the Love FOOD DRIVE

**On:** Saturday, July 31<sup>s</sup>  
**From:** 11am-2pm  
**Where:** Parking lot of Kohls  
(Silverdale)

Come by, say Hi, pick up some **free school supplies**, drop off an item of nonperishable food and help the Brigade feed hungry kids.



Through the month of September, the Brigade would like to collect donations of new or gently used, medium to large size backpacks, to fill with good food to deliver to hungry children in our community. They could be dropped off at the Habitat Store on Wheaton Way, or at our Pantry.



The Brigade could use a couple of strong backs to help rearrange some shelving and food in our pantry before the school year starts. If you are interested in helping, in mid-August, let us know.

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## At Fred Meyer!

The Brigade will be holding a new kind of food drive at the Fred Meyer in Bremerton, come September. We'll have collection boxes at each door of the store with little shopping lists at each register. Your help with donations of nonperishable foods will help us fill backpacks of food, each week, to fill the tummies of hungry kids. Keep watching!