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## **NEWS UPDATE - Backpacks For Kids gets new supporters**

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Backpacks For Kids gets new supporters

Background: In February 2007, Oceanlake Elementary School health aide Pat Robertson and family advocate Karen Dummer began the Backpacks For Kids program, sending backpacks home on Fridays with students they knew might not get enough to eat during the weekend. They began with Oceanlake Elementary and a handful of kids and now send about 75 packs home from three Lincoln City schools.

Update: After an April 21 story about Backpacks For Kids in The Oregonian, the program received numerous donations of food and about \$4,000 in cash. "It's been overwhelming," Robertson said. "I had a visitor from Idaho walk through the door the day after the article and handed us a \$200 check. Two sixth-grade classes from the Lenox Elementary in Hillsboro collected food and brought it down to one of our drop-off places. The story touched a lot of people because they could relate to the children. One man wrote from the penitentiary and donated money. He said if a program had been there for him when he was young, he might not be where he is now. It was very touching."

What's next: Several people have contacted the women about starting Backpacks For Kids in their schools, and Dummer and Robertson are helping them get started. "Our goal is to get it in different schools. We started with one; we've got it in three. Now we hope we can get it throughout Oregon, so we know it is affecting other people in the state."

More information: Backpacks For Kids, c/o Oceanlake Elementary School, 2420 N.E. 22nd St., Lincoln City, OR 97367. Phone: 541-994-5296; Web site: [www.backpacksforkids.org](http://www.backpacksforkids.org)

-- Lori Tobias