



# The CedarWood Report



Spring 2017

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## EXCITING EXPANSION IN BACKPACK KIDS PROGRAM

Cedarwood's BackPack Kids Program recently experienced 500% growth in our weekly distribution! This past February, the number of children we help support with weekend food climbed from 30 to 152! This equates to 912 kid-friendly self-serve meals (plus snacks) each week, for children who do not have daily access to enough food for an active, healthy life. Here's what happened: At the end of December 2016, CedarWood was supporting 25-30 children in the Skykomish School District, an area of great need near Stevens Pass, WA. At the same time, we had been reaching out to other schools closer to our Pantry location, seeking opportunities to assist more children in those school districts. However, all the doors remained closed despite our best efforts.

Then a miracle happened! Facing a storage pinch in January, we packaged an additional 300 bags of food several weeks early just to empty our shelves for organizational purposes. Imagine our surprise when we discovered days later that another agency serving children in the neighboring Sultan School District had to suddenly withdraw their support. Because of our unscheduled packaging effort, CedarWood was able to step in and instantly cover the emergency need. No child was left to go hungry that weekend and we continue to support the additional children each week. The door has swung wide open for CedarWood in these communities!

These children receive free and/or reduced price meals at school, but often lack nutritious food on the weekends. That's where CedarWood's BPK program steps in to help. In collaboration with Operation Full Bellies (a program of Sky Valley Community Outreach) and Skykomish Food Harvest, we collect or buy food that will be discreetly distributed to children by school counselors or onsite coordinators before each weekend.

We now assemble 300-400 packages of food *each month* instead of each quarter. With this comes the need for more resources and volunteers. One recent volunteer team came to us from the Girl Scouts. What a delightful group of girls—we especially love to see kids helping kids! They jumped right in with energy and enthusiasm and assembled 300 BPK kits in one hour. Not only did everyone have a great time, but they were able to do something meaningful for kids their own age!

As our Backpack Kids Program expands to feed more children, the financial demand also increases. We often need to purchase food to complete the BPK kits after taking inventory of donated items. We welcome the community to donate food items to help fill the bags. Currently our areas of greatest demand are canned goods like chili or spaghetti, canned meats, fruit cups, granola bars and healthy snacks.

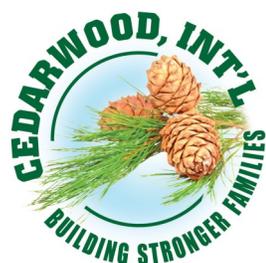
We welcome more individuals and businesses to join us in fighting child hunger. Each kit, containing 6 meals plus snacks, costs only \$8 per week (\$35 per month / \$315 per school year).



Local Girl Scouts help assemble food kits for hungry students!

**Would you consider sponsoring a child?** To donate food or to inquire about volunteer opportunities for the BPK Program, email: [EileenH@worldforjesus.org](mailto:EileenH@worldforjesus.org). To contribute funds to support a child, go to **WorldforJesus.org** and click on the "Donate" tab; then "CW Backpack Child Sponsorship." Add your desired donation to the Cart and click "Proceed to Checkout".

We want to give a huge "Thank You" to all our friends and partners who already faithfully support this work as well as our NEW partners who will join us! We love and appreciate you!



CedarWood International is a division of *The World For Jesus Ministries*

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## Happy Ending for CedarWood Volunteer Couple



Bill first came to the CedarWood Pantry two years ago at the invitation of another volunteer. As we came to know Bill, we found out that he was engaged to Ann, who lived in the Philippines. Our team supported them in their journey of working through the governmental processes that would allow Ann to move to the U.S. so they could get married. That journey took much longer than expected, but they never gave up hope. Week after week as Bill faithfully served at the Pantry, he would share the challenges and breakthroughs they encountered. In the fullness of time all the details finalized and Bill and Ann are now married and living in our community!

After their honeymoon, Bill brought Ann to the Pantry and they volunteered together! We asked him to share his experiences as a volunteer: *“Volunteering here has been a true blessing. My friend told me I would be blessed and I definitely was! It is more blessed to give than receive...The ability to serve the community in this capacity is just amazing. We are all like a big family. The support that we get from each other is just incredible. It is a life-changing experience.”*

The second time she came to help, we asked Ann what she thought about her experience with CedarWood. *“People here are awesome. I was overwhelmed with the warm welcome they had for me. I’m so thankful also that I’ve met great people who have big hearts.”* Please join us in congratulating Bill and Ann, who are starting a new life together!

***The CedarWood Pantry needs you! If you would like to join us in the fight against hunger, send an email to VivianD@worldforjesus.org or EileenH@worldforjesus.org and we will get you connected!***

## CedarWood Pantry Celebrates 4th Anniversary!!

CedarWood Pantry first opened on April 8, 2013.

Since that first day, and with your help,

we have been able to feed

**35,133 people!**



Follow us on Facebook!

[facebook.com/cedarwoodinternational](https://facebook.com/cedarwoodinternational)



## Get Involved!

CedarWood International needs YOUR help to build stronger families! Consider donating money, food, or even volunteer your time. Monetary donations are tax-deductible. Please write checks to World For Jesus Ministries (WFJM) and mail to the address on Page 1. Please notate “CedarWood” in the memo section of your check. Online donations also accepted at <http://worldforjesus.org/ministries>, just click the “CedarWood International” donate button to add your donation to the cart. THANK YOU!