



Backpack Project Overview

What is it?

The Backpack Project is a countywide ShareFest Initiative to help mobilize “The Church” and restore the reputation of Christ in Lake County communities. The Backpack Project provides basic back-to-school needs - Backpacks filled with school supplies - for almost **5,000** needy children in Lake County.

When is it?

The ShareFest Backpack Project runs from July 12th to July 26th. Final collection date is 8/2.

Key Dates:

- by June 6th – Make a commitment to participate
- July 12, 19 & 26 – Promote online orders and/or distribute Backpacks to be filled
- July 19, 26 & 8/2 – Collect filled backpacks

How does it work?

Churches choose online orders, empty Backpacks to fill themselves, or both.

- Churches can encourage online orders, \$25 each or 3 for \$65, and ask volunteers to place orders at sign-up table in the Church lobby. “Hello” cards (available online to print with instructions) can be signed by each family that purchases online. Churches can mail the cards to Catalyst and a card will be placed inside every Backpack a child receives. Churches / Volunteers provide laptop(s) OR a spreadsheet (available online) to write down order information. If desired, send spreadsheet to sharefest@catalystweb.org and orders will be placed for you.
- Churches estimate the number of backpacks they would like to fill and ShareFest will supply empty backpacks with supply lists to churches for \$6 each. Church volunteers / families will fill the backpacks. Estimate \$30 to fill, total = \$36 “Hello” cards (available online to print with instructions) can be signed by each family and placed inside their filled Backpack.
- Churches may distribute some or all of their Backpacks, including those ordered online, OR Catalyst will distribute to kids in need for your Church.

How does a church get involved?

1. All Lake County Churches and congregations are invited to participate.
2. A Point Person from each church should lead and encourage the effort among the congregation.
3. A church will prayerfully determine the number of backpacks they would like to fill – either online, hands-on or both. Usually 25- 50% of adult membership will participate.
4. Point Persons can find support, instructions and tools on our Web site: www.catalystweb.org, click on ShareFest and then Backpacks.
5. You may always contact Jackie Larson at sharefest@catalystweb.org or 847-609-8402 with questions or for support.