



ShareFest Backpack Drive ~Starter Kit~

"Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."
Matthew 20:28

Why is this Important?

Some schools right in our backyard have the lowest graduation rates and highest unemployment rates in the state.

Join us to make a difference in the lives of 5,000 students in those communities - helping them to be prepared for school and have a chance for a brighter future. Let's demonstrate God's love together!

Help us fill 5,000 Backpacks with school supplies!

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How does a church get involved?

1. All churches and congregations are invited to participate.
2. A Point Person from each church will lead the effort among the congregation.
3. Your local congregation will prayerfully determine the number of backpacks you would like to fill - either online or hands on - typically, 25- 50% of adult membership will participate.
4. The Backpack Point Person has access to support, instructions, training resources and promotional material. Resources are available on our Web site: www.catalystweb.org, click on ShareFest and then Backpacks.

Change the children and you change the future!

Timeline

The ShareFest Backpack Project runs from July 12th to August 2nd.

- By May 30th - Make a commitment to participate. Determine your method of distribution from your church.
- July 12, 19 & 26 - Promote online orders and distribute within your congregation Backpacks to be filled with school supplies.
- July 19, 26 & 8/2 - Collect filled backpacks and continue to promote online orders.
- August - Distribute Backpacks as per your leadership plan, and/or arrange for Catalyst to collect your Backpacks and distribute to needy kids in Lake County.

How does it work?

This year due to greater needs among the children of Lake County and the financial challenges facing all families we are suggesting your church consider promoting online orders. It is the least expensive option for families and allows us to streamline the delivery of the Backpacks. Your church can still plan its own special distribution event - we will coordinate the delivery with and to you.

- Churches encourage online orders at \$25 each or 3 for \$65, and ask volunteers to place orders at ShareFest table. Churches or Volunteers provide laptop(s) OR a spreadsheet (available online) to write down order information for church volunteer to place orders. If desired, send spreadsheet to sharefest@catalystweb.org and orders will be placed for you. **AND / OR**
- Churches determine 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.
* Approximately \$30-\$40 per backpack to purchase supplies
- Backpacks are for Lake County kids in need. Each church can choose its own distribution method or Catalyst can distribute for you. Delivery options available.

Together we can make a difference!



Casting Vision

Catalyst can help you as a pastor or leader, cast vision and “infect” your congregation with passion to serve and demonstrate God’s love to students, teachers, principals, and our whole community!

Suggestions to help your church catch the vision...

- Spend time PRAYING for local schools, leaders, teachers, etc.
- Partner with local congregations to multiply the impact.
- Develop a sermon or sermon series on compassion and social justice - include the potential of transformation through service to local children and families.
- Invite a Catalyst specialist in to cast vision with your staff, board, or congregation.
- Invite a local principal or teacher to discuss needs in the local school.
- Use the Backpack Drive promotional material to help encourage and inspire volunteers to participate (DVD, bulletin inserts, table recruitment instructions, announcement suggestions, etc.)

Sign Us Up!**Backpack Drive
Response Card**

To get started with your Backpacks or if you wish to learn more, please call us at 847-281-3388, email us at sharefest@catalystweb.org or fill out the below information and fax it to 847-918-8820.

Name _____

Church Name _____

Church Point Person _____

Email Address _____

Phone Number _____

Choose Options and Order Amounts Below:

- A. Offer online purchase of BP including supplies for \$25 each or three (3) for \$65.00.

_____ **NUMBER OF BACKPACKS YOU WILL CHALLENGE YOUR CONGREGATION TO ORDER ONLINE.**

- B. Option 'A' and/or purchase BP's from Catalyst to be filled by congregation and returned to church. (\$6 each).

_____ **NUMBER OF BACKPACKS YOU WANT TO ORDER FOR YOUR CONGREGATION TO FILL WITH SCHOOL SUPPLIES.**

- C. Choose your unique distribution method and recipients - Catalyst supports you in this effort.

Name of School or organization: _____

- D. Catalyst collects your BP's and distributes to the needy kids in Lake County.