

## BACKPACK BEGINNINGS ESTABLISHES NEW FUND AND PROGRAM IN HIGH POINT

Parker White has a passion for feeding hungry children and earlier this year she announced that her organization, Backpack Beginnings, has established a Donor Advised Fund at the High Point Community Foundation which will help support her thriving program that has been serving the community of High Point since 2010.

“I started Backpack Beginnings in Greensboro and have been working with Guilford County Schools for a couple of years now,” states White. “We have had great success reaching out to young people by using the public schools as our distribution venue. There are a tremendous amount of young children in Guilford County who are going hungry on the weekends and our backpacks are making sure that these youngsters not only have nutritious food to eat but also know that people care about them.”

Over 53% of children in Guilford County’s School System are on free or reduced lunches and the statistics for High Point students is even higher. Research very plainly shows that going hungry during the elementary years has a dramatic long-term impact upon the capacity to learn and succeed for these children. Going without food makes children inattentive and less able to learn, they are sick more often, they miss more school, and they tend to suffer from more behavioral problems that range from aggression to hyperactivity. Most educators will note that the early years are absolutely critical to the formation of an educational base that will carry stu-



*Parker White*

dents through middle school and high school.

“We have way too many students who are coming to school hungry,” states Paul Lessard, President, HPCF, “and these children already have too many challenges to deal with in their life. There is

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simply no reason for food to be a problem – and I am confident that Backpack Beginnings will have a positive impact on the children served over the years. We are proud

to work with this program and look forward to many years of partnership with Parker.”

The Backpack Beginnings program began in High Point during the 2010 – 2011 school year on a small scale working with the students at Oak Hill Elementary School. Due to the demand and success at Oak Hill and other schools already being served in Greensboro White approached other Title One schools in High Point and found that expansion of her program was needed. Backpack Beginnings is now serving six additional schools which include; Northwood Elementary, Johnson Street Elementary, Parkview Elementary, Montlieu Elementary, Union Hill Elementary, and the Macedonia Head Start Program.

Backpack Beginnings partners with Second Harvest Food Bank where they receive prepackaged meals which are FDA approved and include diverse and healthy food items. The future success of this program will be dependent upon local support from High Point and it is hoped that everyone will see that this is an investment that our community simply cannot afford to ignore. 🍎

To donate to this fund  
send your check to:

High Point Community Foundation  
BackPack Beginnings Fund  
PO Box 5166  
High Point, NC 27262

or visit

[www.hpcommunityfoundation.org](http://www.hpcommunityfoundation.org)  
to donate by credit card.

For more information on this  
program, visit the website at  
[www.backpackbeginnings.com](http://www.backpackbeginnings.com)