

National Outreach Project
Lead2Feed
Wessington Springs Senior FCCLA Chapter
2016-2017

Carolyn Groves, chapter president, coordinated a Lead2Feed project to educate the community about the Springs Blue Bag Nutrition Program and raise money to help sustain the program. Carolyn used the project as her Senior Experience capstone project and an FCCLA project. Carolyn set up a display at Parent/Teacher Conferences and the Holly Jolly Mall, sold Christmas cards for donations to the program, and sponsored a benefit night at a basketball game. For the benefit members created items for the silent auction, bake goodies for the bake sale, prepared and served a supper, and worked at several stations during the event. Carolyn, with the help of the chapter, raised over \$3100 for the Springs Blue Bag Nutrition Program.

WSHS senior project helps raise awareness for Blue Bag program

Booth at Holly Jolly Mall invites community to give children the gift of meal security

While Wessington Springs School District provides free or reduced meals to children at risk of hunger during the school week, it does not address the needs of children when school is not in session.

This is where the Blue Bag Nutrition Program fills an important void with its backpack program. This program provides children with nutritious, easy-to-prepare foods during weekends.

"The Blue Bag Program sends 12 nutritious food items home including four entrees, four fruit/vegetables and four snacks that kids of all ages can easily prepare themselves," said Caroline Groves, WSHS senior, whose senior project is focused on bringing awareness to the program. "I feel like this is an important program that I want to help promote."

The Blue Bag Nutrition Program began just under two years ago when backpack programs were sprouting up across the state. It grew through a coalition of church leaders, educators, the school wellness committee and community members concerned about childhood hunger in Wessington Springs and the surrounding area.

According to Feeding South Dakota, a hunger relief organization aimed at eliminating hunger in this state, one out of eight individuals in South Dakota is food insecure and one in five children under the age of 18 is at risk of going hungry.

Blue Bag purchases locally at Springs Food Market and owners Ryan, Jen and Lisa Jensen provide the food to Blue Bag at cost. Additional funding is sourced through gifts from Weskota Foundation, Wessington Springs Community Foundation, Springs Area Community Club and private donors. A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, Blue Bag qualifies for additional discounts on food through Feeding South Dakota.

As part of her senior project, Groves will have a booth at the Holly Jolly Mall that will be held on December 9 at the elementary school before the Christmas Extravaganza concert. In addition to information about the program, Groves will have holiday cards for sale that may be purchased in honor of someone and benefits the Blue Bag program. For more information and a sample of the holiday card, see the ad on PAGE SIX

WSHS senior project helps raise awareness for Blue Bag program

Fund raiser supper, bake sale and auction to be held next Monday



CAROLYN GROVES

cards to benefit the Blue Bag program.

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As part of her senior project, Groves will host a supper, bake sale and silent auction at the double header basketball game on January 23 to be held at the Wessington Springs Elementary School gymnasium. The bake sale begins at 4 p.m. and supper will be available at 5 p.m.

As part of her project, Groves also had a booth at the Holly Jolly Mall held last month before the Christmas Extravaganza concert. In addition to information about the program, Groves sold holiday

This holiday season...

COMBAT CHILDHOOD HUNGER WITH A GIFT TO THE SPRINGS BLUE BAG PROGRAM



One in five South Dakota children under the age of 18 is at risk of going hungry. Blue Bag Nutrition Program fills an important void with its backpack program, providing children with nutritious, easy-to-prepare foods during weekends.

Visit the Blue Bag booth at the Holly Jolly Mall December 9

BUY A BLUE BAG HOLIDAY CARD IN HONOR OF A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER WITH ALL PROCEEDS HELPING BLUE BAG COMBAT CHILDHOOD HUNGER IN OUR AREA



