
	<h2>LiGHT Grant Application 2023</h2>	
	<p>2023 LiGHT Grant Cover Form and Guidelines</p>	

Name of individual, group or organization: FEEDING TOMORROW'S FUTURE TODAY a.k.a Wells Co. 4-H Backpack Program

Contact name(s): Sue Girod, Treasurer of Wells County 4-H Backpack Program

Address: 1240 4-H Park Road, Bluffton, IN 46714

Phone number: 260-827-8393 (Sue Girod) Email Address: suegirod271@gmail.com

Name of the program as it would appear on the grant award: Wells County 4-H Backpack Program

Describe who the grant award will serve and approximate number affected: Hungry children/teenagers (Ages 5-18) of Wells County on the weekends during the school year. Currently 115 food packs are being provided to all three school systems in Wells County for 36 weekends. Approximately 4,000 food packs will be distributed this school year.

Dollar amount requested: \$3,000.00

Would the program be offered if only a *partial* grant from LiGHT is made? Yes

Summary paragraph of the grant award requested: Food insecurity among children and teenagers is a real issue in
 May be utilized for part of the presentation.

Indiana, Wells County included. Studies by Feeding Indiana's Hungry and Feeding America show that 1 in 6 people turn to food pantries and meal service programs to feed themselves and their families. In 2011 Wells County 4-H started the program called "Feeding Tomorrow's Future Today" with seed money from the Indiana 4-H Foundation. Since that 2011 inception, "Feeding Tomorrow's Future Today" now called Wells County 4-H Backpack Program has provided more than 35,100 food packs to Wells County's hungry children and teenagers on the weekends during the school year. This program is being constrained this year by the increased cost of food (5.9% since 2022) and the number of food packs being requested (i.e. 115 packs this year compared to 75 in August, 2022). This grant will help make up this difference.

Complete all requested items below:

- 1) This Cover Form
- 2) Project Narrative, 1-5 pages typed, including:
 - What need in the Community will this program address? Give evidence to substantiate your request. (i.e., data, letters of recommendation, etc.)
 - What do you want to do?
 - What is your timeline?
 - What results do you expect?
 - If partnering with other organizations, please list.
 - Describe the program and tell how the funds from the grant will be used based on your budget
 - Signature page: To include endorsement of the project or program by the requesting agency's Board of Directors. This page must include a signature of the Board president.
- 3) Detailed budget

2) PROJECT NARRATIVE:

- NEED?

Per Hoosiers Feeding the Hungry, one out of six children are hungry all the time. Wells County is no exception. The Wells County 4-H Backpack Program sends food packs home with students from all three Wells County school systems each weekend. In the 2022-2023 school year over 3,250 food packs were distributed to approximately 90 students per week. This school year 2023-2024 an increase of 28% in the number of food packs has already been experienced from 75 last year to 115 this year.

- WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?

The program wants to continue to provide these nutritious food packs to these hungry children/ teenagers but due to the increased cost of these food products, during the 2022-2023 school year the expenses exceeded the donations by \$8,000.00 and the number of children/teenagers needing these food packs have already increased to 115 for the 2023-2024 school year.

- TIMELINE?

August 1, 2023 to May 31, 2024

- RESULTS EXPECTED?

To be able to buy more nutritious food to supply the increasing number of food packs for the 2023-2024 school year. Each food pack currently costs \$15.00. This cost has increased by \$3.00 each since the 2022-2023 school year.

- OTHER PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS?

We currently partner with the Wells County 4-H Association for use of their 501(c)3 status and use of the Junior Leader/Farm Bureau building in the 4-H Park to house the food inventory and packing. We also partner with First Baptist Church of Ossian with their Bread/Food ministry. They use their truck and trailer and volunteers to pick up fresh bread weekly in Fort Wayne. Two of our volunteers use their car or truck to pick up the bread from them in Ossian and transport it to the 4-H Park in Bluffton. Hoosiers Feeding the Hungry is a partner in the form of providing the monies to process the meat being canned at Manley Meats.

- DESCRIBE THE PROGRAM; HOW WILL THE FUNDS FROM THE GRANT BE USED?

Wells County 4-H Backpack Program is a program used to feed hungry children/teenagers (Ages 5 to 18) over the weekend during the school year (August to May) for the Wells County school systems.

The funds from the grant will be used to buy canned vegetables and fruits, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, barbeque sauce for the pork, hamburger and tuna helper, canned chicken and tuna, soups and snacks.

Beef and pork is purchased by several Wells County businesses at the annual 4-H auction. This year over \$9,000 was contributed by the Wells County businesses. Another \$2,000 was raised by fundraisers at the 4-H Fair. The steers and pigs are raised by the 4-H members. The meat is then processed into cans at Manley Meats at Monroe. The processing fees are paid for by Hoosiers Feeding the Hungry. Organizations, businesses, churches, individuals, 4-H clubs and fundraisers throughout the years are our biggest donors. Valero was instrumental in giving us a \$15,000 grant during the 2022-2023 school year. Local farmers have also contributed pigs and steers individually for the Backpack program.

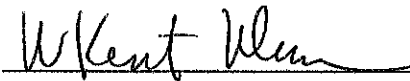
The program has grown to the present distribution of 115 packs per week for 36 weeks (a total of 4,140) are being delivered to the three Wells County school systems.

Many churches and clubs contribute cereal, canned tuna, canned chicken, hamburger and tuna helper and snacks on a regular basis. We could not continue to operate without these in-kind contributions. Peytons Northern continue to pack the bags once per month and contribute their Kroger bags. Many organizations continue to pack on a regular basis. Over two hundred volunteers from social organizations, sport teams, 4-H clubs, school clubs, businesses, churches and 4-H volunteers were recorded during the 2022-2023 school year and are signed up again for this year.

The cost of filling these food packs have increased by 15.4% since 2022-2023 school year (\$12/bag vs \$15/bag). These increases are caused by the increase in the cost of food in the grocery stores. The number of food packs being distributed have increased by 53% since last year (75 to 115) at this time and there is a good possibility this will continue to increase during the school year.

Fresh fruit (apples, oranges and/or mandarins) is currently being contributed each week this school year by an anonymous donor and after Thanksgiving by the Southern Wells FFA. Thank you to these donors.

- This 8th day of September, 2023, as President of the Wells County 4-H Association, Inc. I endorse this grant application for the Wells County 4-H Backpack Program.



Kent Ulmer, President
Wells County 4-H Association, Inc.

- Respectfully submitted this 8th day of September, 2023, by:



Sue Girod, Treasurer, Wells County 4-H Backpack Program

• **WELLS COUNTY 4-H BACKPACK PROGRAM PROJECTED BUDGET FOR 2023-2024**

BEGINNING CHECKBOOK BALANCE, August 1, 2023: **\$6,205.53**

INCOME:

Donations from fundraisers, grants, donors:	\$30,000.00
In-Kind Donations:	<u>10,000.00</u>
Total Income:	\$40,000.00

EXPENSES:

Food: Canned vegetables and fruits, peanut butter, cereal, soups, crackers, snacks, canned chicken and tuna, pasta and helpers \$40,000.00

Meat & Processing: 12 pigs and 4 steers purchased from 4-H members and processed at Manley Meats in Monroe (processing paid for by Hoosiers

Feeding the Hungry) 10,000.00

Operating Supplies: shopping bags, bank service charges 1,500.00

Donations to participating partners:

Hoosiers Feeding the Hungry (meat processing) 1,000.00

First Baptist Church of Ossian (bread delivery) 1,500.00

Total Expenses: **\$54,000.00**

ANTICIPATED BALANCE **-\$7,794.47**