

	LiGHT Grant Application 2026	
	2026 LiGHT Grant Cover Form and Guidelines	

Name of individual, group or organization: Park Community Church

Contact name(s): Rachel Owen

Address: 317 S. Bennett St. Bluffton, IN 46714

Phone number: 765-414-0400 Email Address: owenrm82@gmail.com

Name of the program as it would appear on the grant award: FOODFIGHT!

Describe who the grant award will serve and approximate number affected: FOODFIGHT! covers the negative balances of school lunches in Wells and Adams counties. The number affected varies, but could be around 4000.

Dollar amount requested: \$3000

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

Summary paragraph of the grant award requested: _____

➤ May be utilized for part of the presentation.

FOODFIGHT! covers the negative balances of school lunches in Wells county since 2015 and Adams county since 2017.

This money would help us continue to offer this ministry to the children in Wells County.

All funds would go directly to the schools from Park Community Church.

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



Greetings,

My name is Rachel Owen and I just want to share with you about our ministry FOODFIGHT! which covers the negative balances of school lunches. With this ministry, we have been able to cover all of Wells County schools since 2015 and we added Adams County schools in 2017. There is a definite need for this in our community & the communities that surround ours. In the beginning of this adventure, I raised money starting with a bake sale during Bluffton's citywide garage sales & then set up a GoFundMe page. Currently the only fundraiser we do is a cornhole tournament in the fall, otherwise God has provided above and beyond. We are supported mostly by individual donations, First Reformed Church on a quarterly basis since 2017, the LiGHT grant from The Wells County Foundation on multiple occasions, and many other organizations that have given gifts throughout the years.

There have been so many stories in the news about kids getting shamed by cafeteria workers or other children because they did not have the funds in their account to pay for lunch, this should never happen. It's been researched & shown that kids concentrate better and work harder when they have food in their stomachs. Some kids do qualify for the free or reduced lunches, but not all of them. Many families are a percent or two away from qualifying, which sometimes means their kids have to go without. Some school districts have completely free lunches for all of their students because the poverty percentage is low enough overall to qualify. Last I checked, Bluffton was only a few percentages away from qualifying as a whole district, but not there yet. Kids should never have to worry about where their meals are going to come from, and while I know we can't solve all those problems, this is where God is having us start. In schools, kids should feel safe and not have to worry about their meals.

Currently, this ministry is being ran through Park Community Church in Bluffton, IN. Since 2015, we have raised & given more than \$100,000 & been able to help with more than 36,000 lunches!! Please pray for our efforts in this ministry that God will continue to provide. Thank you so much for taking the time to read this & I pray God blesses you as you make a decision to help or not.

Sincerely,

Rachel Owen

FOODFIGHT! Founder

owenrm82@gmail.com/765-414-0400