

**CHILDREN'S HOME FOUNDATION**  
APPLICATION FOR FUNDING COVER PAGE



**THE FOUNDATION  
FOR ENHANCING  
COMMUNITIES**

A completed copy of this cover page must accompany all applications for funding directed to the Children's Home Foundation Fund, a fund of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities. **Please provide the following information in a narrative of five pages maximum, exclusive of attachments.** Completed applications may be mailed or hand delivered to the following addresses and must be received by—not postmarked by—4pm on the respective deadline date. MAILING ADDRESS: The Foundation for Enhancing Communities, PO Box 678, Harrisburg, PA 17108-0678. PHYSICAL ADDRESS: The Foundation for Enhancing Communities, 200 North 3rd Street, 8th Floor, Harrisburg, PA. Contact Jennifer Strechay, Program Offer for Community Investment, at [jstrechay@tfec.org](mailto:jstrechay@tfec.org) or 717-236-5040 with questions.

**Name of Organization** Panther Ram Foundation - CDS D Nutripacks Program

**Name and Title of Executive Leader** Don Enders, President

**Mailing Address** 600 Rutherford Road, Harrisburg PA 17109

**Telephone** 717-460-5351

**Website** [www.pantherram.org](http://www.pantherram.org) OR: [www.cdschools.info/Panther Ram](http://www.cdschools.info/Panther Ram) and [www.cdschools.info/Nutripacks/](http://www.cdschools.info/Nutripacks/)

**Name and Title of Contact** Linda Dallago, Co-chair of NutriPacks

**Email Address of Contact** [linda@dallago.com](mailto:linda@dallago.com)

**Amount of Funding Requested** \$5,000.00 (5,000.00)

**Purpose of Funding Request** To maintain and expand to middle school students the NutriPacks weekend backpack program for food insecure children and children from low income families

**Briefly describe your organization:**

- A. Mission, purpose, and history
- B. Service population and geographic area served, including demographics
- C. Current programs, activities, and accomplishments

**Briefly describe the project for which you are requesting funding:**

- A. Project goals, objectives, and planned activities/events
- B. Project timetable and budget; *the project budget is separate from the organization budget*
- C. Constituency served or targeted population
- D. Other funding sources and amounts
- E. Project benefits and anticipated results
- F. Description of how project differs from similar projects in geographic area served.

**Additional Information Required:**

- A. List of your current Board of Directors
- B. Copy of your organization's current budget AND first page of the organization's 990. *If 990 is not available, provide applicant organization's most recent audit or financial statement.*
- C. Copy of your 501(c) (3) Letter or proof of application
- D. Copy of your registration with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Charitable Organizations

E. While Letters of Support are NOT REQUIRED for this grant opportunity, they may be submitted with your grant materials. *If your project represents a partnership or is 100% dependent upon participation by an organization presented in your application, please provide a letter from each organization that confirms their agreement to participate in the project.*

## **Briefly describe your organization: NutriPacks, July 2020**

### **A. Mission, purpose and history**

NutriPacks is a weekend food distribution and education program whose goal has been to reduce hunger among low income and food insecure children in grades K-5 who attend one of the 13 elementary schools in the Central Dauphin School District. During the upcoming school year the program will be expanded to include middle school students. A weekly backpack of nutritious food is distributed to students in need for use on the weekends when they do not have access to the school breakfast and lunch program. Nutripacks is a project of the Panther Ram Foundation, a 501(c)(3) that was established in 2001 to enhance the educational experiences of students in the district. Some of the Panther Ram projects have included smart boards for classrooms, support for extracurricular activities, band uniforms, learning grants for teachers, and annual scholarships for students.

The NutriPacks program was established in 2010 and provided food assistance to 80 children in 3 schools during the first year. The program quickly expanded to all 13 of the district's elementary schools, and during the 2019-2020 school year over 800 students were enrolled in the program. Every week from October to June backpacks of food are distributed at no cost to families. A typical backpack may include pasta or rice, protein such as peanut butter, tuna, or meat, fresh or canned fruits and vegetables, juice, cereal, milk, eggs, and granola bars. Most of our food is purchased and delivered from the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank. However, churches and scout troops have done food donation drives for the program and we have food donation boxes around the district which were funded and built with the help of Thrivent for Lutherans. Parents have the option of picking up their children's backpacks at Central Dauphin Middle School on Wednesday night or at their local elementary school on Thursday or Friday. Many parents depend on the school lunch and breakfast programs for their children's nutritional needs, but these programs are not available on weekends or during long vacations. We received a grant this year to buy a commercial refrigerator and freezer. This purchase has enabled us to offer a wider variety of food, including more meat, and we have worked to provide more complete meals for the children. Our budget has increased this past year with the average cost of a backpack being around \$11.

NutiPacks is completely run by volunteers and funded entirely through grants, donations and fundraising. We have close to 200 volunteers who unload the Food Bank truck, sort and pack the food, and distribute the backpacks. The Advisory Team, comprised of volunteers, meets on a monthly basis to oversee the program and to report

to the Panther Ram Foundation. The co-directors of NutriPacks are both members of the Panther Ram Foundation's board of directors.

The educational component of this program is important. NutriPacks produces a monthly newsletter which is included with the backpacks. The Nourish Newsletter provides recipes, nutritional information, food tips, games and puzzles for the children, and various types of information to help the children and their families to lead healthier lives. Throughout the year other types of nutritional information are provided.

NutriPacks has a presence on Facebook (CDSDNutriPacks) where recipes, menus, and nutrition tips are shared. The monthly Nourish Newsletter, recipes, and information about the program are also available on the school district web site at [www.cdschools.info/Nutripacks](http://www.cdschools.info/Nutripacks).

## **B. Service population and geographic area served including demographics**

The Central Dauphin School District, the largest in Dauphin County, is comprised of three boroughs (Dauphin, Paxtang, Pennbrook) and four townships (Lower Paxton, Middle Paxton, Swatara, West Hanover.) Students attend 13 elementary schools, 4 middle schools, and 2 high schools, and come from urban, suburban, and rural areas. There are over 11,000 students enrolled in the district, and 43% qualify for free and reduced breakfast and lunch programs at school. The district has a diverse population. Approximately 27% of the students are African American, 30% are Hispanic, 13% are Asian, and 29% are Caucasian.

## **C. Current programs, activities, and accomplishments**

NutriPacks has a great working relationship with the administration and faculty of the district. They are aware of the need for this program and are supportive in many ways. Teachers help to pack and serve as site facilitators. They have donated the funds raised through dress down days to the program. The district administration provided the personnel to remodel our packing room to make space for new equipment. Every new student who enrolls in the district is given NutriPacks information by the registrar. Guidance Counselors keep in contact with one of the co-directors and let her know of emergencies or changing family situations with which we can offer assistance. ESL teachers distribute and explain the information in our enrollment letter at the beginning of the year. The district administration has provided translation services in the five most

widely spoken languages in the district (Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, Nepali, and Arabic.)

Nutripacks has the support of the community. We have about 200 volunteers who help with various aspects of the program. We use a sign-up program to ensure that we have the appropriate number of volunteers at packing. School sports teams and clubs regularly sign up to help with packing. Some of these teens volunteer as a way of giving back because they were recipients of backpacks while in elementary school. Local churches and organizations send volunteers and financial support on a regular basis.

Around Thanksgiving a remodeling project in our packing room took place so that there would be room for the commercial refrigerator and freezer that we were able to purchase with a grant. A wall had to be moved and shelving and storage space issues had to be resolved. We had planned to have a Grand Reopening of the NutriPacks Room celebration in March. We planned to invite school board members, funders, and district administrators to take a tour of the remodeled room. Covid19 forced a postponement until a safer time. In the meantime, the room has been in use and makes the logistics of packing easier.

With the closing of schools due to the pandemic, we made the difficult decision to suspend operations in April for the rest of the school year. This program depends largely on the ability to use the schools for packing and distribution and to have groups of volunteers each week. There were too many logistics to take care of in a short time. However, we partnered with the Food Bank to distribute 25 pound boxes of non-perishable food once a week during the summer months of June, July, and August. Since the beginning of June, we have been distributing 500 boxes every Thursday at East Middle School during the school district's Grab and Go pickup times. We also have a committee working on alternative plans should the schools have to close down again.

**Briefly describe the project for which you are requesting funding.**

**A. Project goals, objectives, and planned activities/events**

The NutriPacks program has been available to elementary students since 2010, but the NutriPacks Advisory Team is aware that there are middle school students who could benefit from this program. For the past several years it has been our goal to expand the program to include these children. We piloted a program this past school year for the middle school siblings of those elementary students who were enrolled in the NutriPacks

program. In early 2020 the Advisory Team formally decided to offer the program to all middle school students beginning with the 2020-2021 school year.

### **B. Project timetable and budget**

The NutriPacks program operates on a weekly basis from October to June of each school year. This request is for the 2020-2021 school year. The NutriPacks budget for this year is included. The total budget amount to provide 800 bags per week is \$324,025. As you can see, most of our expenditures are for purchasing food for 36 weeks of the school year. Although the program will be open to more children, we think that the goal of 800 bags per week will be adequate, based on our pickup statistics. Unfortunately, not every family picks up their bags every week for a variety of reasons, which include illness, work schedules, lack of a car, weather, etc. Enrollment applications are sent out with school information in August, so we will not have an exact number of enrollees until September. We will continue to reassess to see if we need to provide more bags based on our enrollment and pickup data.

### **C. Constituency served or targeted population**

NutriPacks will continue to serve food insecure children and those who come from low income families. During the 2020-2021 school year the program will be available for children in grades K-8.

### **D. Other Funding Sources**

We were awarded a \$50,000 local shares municipal gaming grant in March for the upcoming school year. (We are currently writing another proposal for the grants which will be awarded in March of 2021.) UPMC Pinnacle has been a long-time supporter of NutriPacks, and we are expecting them to approve the grant proposal we submitted in June for \$63,000. Over the years we have had many organizations and businesses support NutriPacks financially. We plan to submit proposals to these organizations when their grant cycles are open: Walmart (\$5,000), Sam's Club (\$5,000), RiteAid (\$25,000), Blue Cross (\$10,000), Highmark (\$10,000), Costco (\$15,000), PPL (\$5,000), Woodmen (\$2,000), the Susquehanna United Methodist conference (\$1,000), and Rotary (\$1,000). In September we will send letters to local churches asking for support, and community

support information is posted on our website and the school district website. We will also continue to seek new funding sources to balance our budget.

**E. Project benefits and anticipated results**

Hunger issues are a problem in many areas, including our own school district. Studies show that hunger and malnutrition can cause children to suffer from fatigue, headaches, stomach aches, and lack of concentration, all of which can have long-lasting effects on their growth, future health, school attendance, and academic performance. Our community is reaching out to these vulnerable children with the goal of helping them improve their general health and academic performance by providing them with nutritious foods on the weekends. In that way they should be able to come to school on Monday morning ready to learn. Nutrition is the best school supply!

**F. Description of how project differs from similar projects in geographic area served**

There are probably other resources for low income families in the area, but this is the only weekly direct food distribution program specifically for children in the Central Dauphin School District.

## **PANTHER RAM FOUNDATION BOARD**

Don Enders – President

Dr. Carl Hoffman – Vice President

Mary Ann Albert – Secretary

Cory Bishop – Treasurer

Jeff Beeman

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Aaron Blanding

Linda Dallago

Jeff Engle

Brian Faleshock

Kim Fisher

Pam Jones

Dr. Norman Miller

Lauren Silvers

Ford Thompson

Bobbie Van Buskirk



## **NUTRIPACKS ADVISORY TEAM**

Linda Dallago – Co-Director

Pam Jones – Co- Director

Maureen Dunbar – Purchasing Coordinator

Donna Daversa – Secretary

Kristin Parker – Data Coordinator

Wendy Parmelee – Operations Coordinator

Joanne Shipe – Purchasing Coordinator

Alexis Wertz – On-Site Operations Coordinator

Deb Wire – Public Relations Coordinator

Karen Withrow – Grant Coordinator

# Panther Ram Foundation NutriPacks Program

2020-2021 Budget

## Expenses

Food 800 enrollees@ \$11/week for 36 weeks	\$316,800.00
Facilities (rent, utilities)	\$0.00
Admin costs for Panther Ram oversight (2.5% of income)	\$3,425.00
Carts, equipment	\$300.00
Printing (brochures, marketing materials, plaque)	\$600.00
Banner and display	
Bags (ULINE)	\$2,000.00
T-shirts	
Volunteer Breakfast	\$600.00
supplies (lights)	\$300.00
	\$324,025.00

## Income

Central PA Food Bank Matching Grant	\$50,000.00	<i>BEGINNING Balance</i>
Pinnacle Health Grant	\$63,000.00	
Dauphin County Gaming Grant	\$50,000.00	
Churches	\$2,000.00	
Other Contributions	\$7,000.00	
Other Grants (Costco, Walmart, TEFAC)*	\$15,000.00	

\$187,000.00

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TOTAL

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\$137,025.00 *★*

*★* \*continuing to apply for new grants to balance the budget