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**U.S. Conference of Mayors Adopts Nonprofit to Address Childhood Hunger**

*Mayors nationwide will organize local backpack-stuffing events to provide food for hungry students*

DALLAS, TX – The United States Conference of Mayors passed a resolution at its 82nd annual meeting in Dallas today declaring Thursday, September 18, 2014 “Blessings in a Backpack Day” – during which mayors across the country will participate in packing bags full of food for children in their communities who need it most.

Every weekend, children across the country go hungry because they don’t have enough food to eat. While fed during the school week by the Federal Free and Reduced Price Meal Program, these students have little or no means of obtaining food on the weekends.

[Blessings in a Backpack](http://www.blessingsinabackpack.org) is a 501(c)3 organization that provides food for more than 65,000 of these elementary school children across 45 different states on weekends during the school year, filling a significant hunger gap for these children.

“With 21 million U.S. public school students enrolled in the National School Lunch program, hunger is clearly an issue that touches almost every corner of this nation,” said Mayor Jim Schmitt of Green Bay, WI who co-sponsored this resolution. “Blessings in a Backpack provides a simple volunteer model that every community can adopt to truly make a difference in the lives of their children.”

Green Bay is home to three Blessings in a Backpack programs, while the state of Wisconsin has nearly 25 programs. The resolution’s other co-sponsor, Mayor Greg Stanton of Phoenix, AZ also strongly supports the Blessings in a Backpack mission, which is responsible for providing food for nearly 1,300 children in Arizona.

“As leaders, it is our responsibility to solve problems and create opportunities,” said Stanton. “Blessings in a Backpack allows us to feed kids who might otherwise go hungry over weekends, while also enhancing the opportunity for these kids to stay healthy and be able to learn in school.”

Blessings in a  
Backpack<sup>®</sup>  
*Feeding The Future Of America*

“It is incredibly inspiring and encouraging to see leaders from cities small and large across the nation come together and take a stand for kids,” said Brooke Wiseman, CEO, Blessings in a Backpack. “Through this initiative, the U.S. Conference of Mayors is providing the opportunity for hundreds of communities to help feed and nourish the minds of America’s future.”

For more information on Blessings in a Backpack, please visit [www.blessingsinabackpack.org](http://www.blessingsinabackpack.org). For more information about the U.S. Conference of Mayors, please visit <http://www.usmayors.org/>.

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