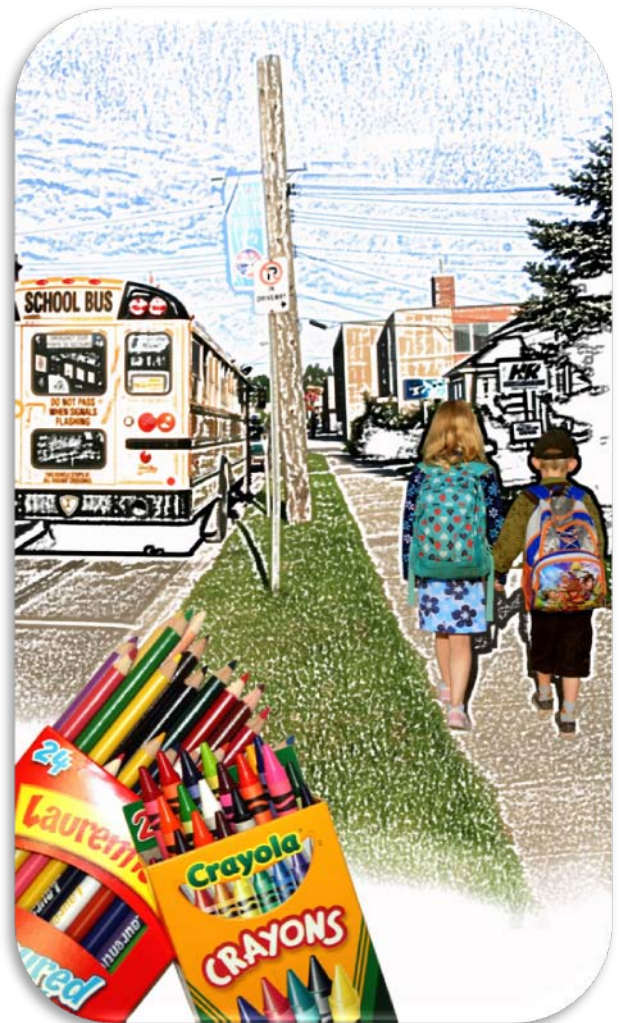


United Way of Bruce Grey Backpack Program

Back to School Supply Collection

FAQ
Frequently Asked Questions



The Children

Each year the list grows.

2005 – 250
2006 – 355
2007 – 544
2008 – 1 261
2009 – 1 703
2010 – 2 121
2011 – 2 544* (see page 11)
2012 – 2 017
2013 – 2 305



9 Year total: 13,100

Every child has a backpack – every backpack has a child

This is the cornerstone philosophy behind the United Way's annual Backpack Program. The United Way wants school to be a positive experience for all children, regardless of their economic situation. By providing school supplies to low income children, we are providing the tools needed to start off the year on the right foot.

Teachers have remarked to us how this program has taken the bullying out of their classroom.

How does it work?

The United Way creates backpacks on two vectors; gender and grade level.

Four grade levels are created to ensure that the right supplies are provided for the right age group.

How does the United Way find the children?

The United Way creates the list of children through two approaches.

Community

The community list is created directly from the families themselves. Either through word of mouth or the media, families learn of the program and call 211 to register.

In 2012 a slip was included in all Bruce and Grey Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability (ODSP) recipient's June and July 1st cheque indicating they could call 211 to register to receive a backpack.



Does Your Child Need a New Backpack and School Supplies to Return to Classes in September??

In 2011, the United Way of Bruce Grey gave away over 2600 backpacks and is once again, providing families with **FREE Backpacks and Basic School Supplies!!**.

If you are interested, call 2-1-1

You will be asked for your name, telephone number and the ages of children in your family.



Families are directed to call 211 to register as individuals for a backpack as 211 can also direct them to other services in the region. Utilizing the 211 service provider also frees up United Way staff to focus on fulfilling needs.

The list is completed on a first come first served basis. With the tremendous support from the communities of Bruce and Grey counties the United Way has succeeded in filling the list each year.

In addition to providing the intake for the backpack program, 211 provided additional information and referrals to other agencies and organizations that the families could access for support.

Local Agencies

Local agencies review their client lists and send the United Way a bulk request for supplies. The agencies to provide us with bulk numbers based on gender and grade level.

A caseworker with an agency might request 8 primary boys, 4 primary girls, 5 intermediate boys and 7 intermediate girls etc. This approach enables us to plan for the large requests and creates a distribution system to get the backpacks to the children.

The United Way is passionate about respecting the individual's privacy with this program.

Receiving Agencies in 2012

Bruce Grey Child and Family Services
Community Living Walkerton & District
Keystone Child, Youth & Family Services
South Bruce Grey Literacy Council
Saugeen First Nation Education Department
Native Child Welfare - Cape Croker
Golden Town Outreach (Meaford Food Bank)
Durham Food Bank
Ontario Early Years
M'Wikwedong Native Cultural Resource

Center
Big Brother Big Sisters of Kincardine
Ecole Port Elgin School
Women's House Serving Bruce and Grey
Ontario Works
Women's Centre Grey and Bruce
Big Brother Big Sisters of Hanover
YMCA
Pine Hill

Where is the greatest need? Where do the backpacks go?

Wherever possible we try to identify the location of those receiving backpacks. This list does not add up to the full total, because agencies often service all of Bruce and Grey and we cannot pinpoint destination clearly.

Based on what we know, these are the areas of request:

Owen Sound
Walkerton
Hanover
Durham
Markdale
Kincardine
Hanover
Cape Croker
Meaford
Wiarton
Meaford
Chesley

Tara
Port Elgin
Dundalk
Flesherton
YMCA
Tobermory
Lucknow
Lions Head
Mildmay
Southampton
Holstein
Hepworth

Dobbinton
Allenford
Tiverton
Teeswater
Shallow Lake
Williamsford
Inverhuron
Desboro
Bognor
Berkeley
Walters Falls
Maxwell

Support

The United Way collects both monetary and product donations.

The role of media

The Backpack Program is supported by most of the radio stations throughout Bruce and Grey Counties.

Radio support came from:

