



**United Way**  
Bruce Grey

# Backpack Program

*School Supplies  
for Kids in Need*



**One less thing to worry about  
on the first day of school.**

# A Backpack for Every Child. A Child for Every Backpack.

## Backpack Program

Provides low income children and youth in the Counties of Bruce and Grey a backpack and school supplies needed to start the year off on the right foot.



**1 in 5 kids live in poverty in Bruce-Grey.**

(approximately 6,000 kids—Stats Canada Census Report, 2016)

**100%**  
**Local giving.**  
**Local results.**

Every dollar donated to the Program is used to purchase backpacks and school supplies from wholesalers to keep the costs to a minimum.

Our suppliers include, Staples, Holiday Luggage and Crayola.

## What Donors Have Made Possible

Program Year	# of Children & Youth Receiving a Backpack
2005 (first year)	250
2017	2,054
Year-To-Date (2005-2017)	21,434
Average per year (2010-2017)	2,152

Average Cost for Program	Average Cost for Fully Stocked Backpack
\$39,600	\$18.00

# Every Child Matters. Every Child Deserves the Same Chances.

## Voices from our Community

“A fresh new backpack and a nice cache of new school supplies can make walking in the door in September a whole lot easier. A huge thanks to individuals and businesses who take the time to donate materials. Your actions make a difference.” **Retired Teacher**

“The Backpack Program reduces poverty-based bullying in the classroom.” **Teacher**

Families can request a backpack by calling

**211**

## Cost Savings to Household

Grade Level	Retail Value (\$) per Backpack
Primary (JK to Grade 3)	\$30.00
Intermediate (Grade 4-6)	\$45.00
Senior (Grade 7-8)	\$60.00
High School	\$110.00

## School Supplies

Backpacks are created on two factors—gender and grade level.

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

Backpacks are stuffed with pencils, crayons, notebooks, scissors, binders, glue sticks and other supplies needed to help kids in primary school up to high school.

United Way receives requests directly from local agencies (e.g. Bruce Grey Child & Family Services, Keystone Child Youth & Family Services, South Grey Bruce Youth Literacy, Community Living and Early Years) for Backpacks.



Free Information Service – 24/7  
When you don't know where to turn, call  
211 or [www.211ontario.ca](http://www.211ontario.ca).

Helping people find the right community,  
social, health and government services in  
our region and across Ontario.



## How Can I get a Backpack?

Families are directed to call 211 to register for a backpack. Information about the Program is provided through the media, word of mouth, local service agencies and notices are provided annually to all Bruce and Grey Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) recipients in June and July.

## How Can I Help?

United Way of Bruce Grey relies on the generous support of our community members each year to keep costs for the Backpack Program as low as possible. Donations of school supplies and cash are gratefully accepted during our annual “Stuff the Bus” Drive. As well, supplies can be dropped off at the United Way office in Owen Sound, and financial donations can be made online at [www.donatetoday.ca](http://www.donatetoday.ca), at the office, through your Payroll Campaign or by calling (519) 376-1560.

Along with donations of funds and supplies, volunteers are needed to stuff backpacks and to deliver them to community pick-up locations. For further details, please call the United Way office.



**United Way**  
**Bruce Grey**

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Charitable Number 898768627 RR0001