

On behalf of Christ's Episcopal Backpack Ministry, thank you for the generous grant we received from the High Plains Region. We used the \$5000 grant, along with other funds to purchase, pack and deliver needed food items to students at Castle Rock Elementary School (CRE).

The Administration at CRE identifies students in need of weekend meals. The volunteers at Christ's Church pack and deliver the meals, consisting of 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners and snacks, to the school weekly during the school year.

During the 2023-2024, at the beginning of the school year, the School Administration identified 26 students in need of supplemental meals. We finished the year supplying meals to 34 students.

During the 2024-2025, at the beginning of the school year the school administration identified 29 students in need of supplemental meals and towards the end of the school year we reached 39 students.

During the 2023-2024 school year volunteers delivered A total of 1,091 bags, consisting of 6,674 meals. During the 2024-2025 school year the number of bags was 1,251 and the number of meals was 7,956.

This represents a 14.67% increase in bags and a 19.21% increase in meals. We anticipate the need for the 2025-2026 school year to be the same and may likely increase.

The cost of each bag varies between \$10 to \$13. The cost varies depending on prices. We shop in bulk and take advantage of sale items when possible to keep costs down. In addition to grant funding, the ministry is supported by the congregation consisting of cash and food donations.

Our ministry team of volunteers is committed to meeting the food needs of CRE students as long as there is a need. We will continue to raise funds from our congregation and pursue outside resources (grant funding) to keep the ministry viable.

Respectfully,  
Joe and Sharon Kissell  
Backpack Ministry Coordinators  
Christ's Episcopal Church  
Castle Rock, CO 80104