

## Bears Football To Partner With Kids Backpack Ministry

Written by Staff Reports

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The Lenoir-Rhyne University Football Team will partner with the Food 4 Kids Backpack Ministry for the remaining four home games of the 2012 season. L-R's next home game will take place on Saturday, September 29, against North Greenville

at 7:00 p.m. Collection containers will be provided by the New Hope Baptist Church at both entrances to the game. L-R Spirit Team advisor Christy Creson has volunteered members of the spirit team - cheerleaders and SugarBears Dance Team members - to be present at the gate to thank donors and collect donated food.

Volunteers will pick up the food immediately following the game to be delivered to the Backpack Pantry at New Hope Baptist Church. The Food 4 Kids Backpack Ministry provides children chosen by their school staff to be at risk for weekend hunger, based on their family need, including seven nutritious meals and two snacks with easy to open nutritious foods.

The food is collected and stored at New Hope Baptist Church in Hickory, N.C. Volunteers pick up the empty backpacks from the school and pack them on Wednesday evening. Volunteers also deliver the backpacks to the school on Thursday and they are distributed by the school staff to the children to take home Friday. The children return the empty backpack on Monday to the school. The process is intentionally discreet. The book bags look just like everyone else's.

### **Food Items Needed:**

The food items needed include peanut butter, Spam, potted meat, canned chicken soup, beef stew or chicken and dumplings, easy to open spaghetti, lasagna, ravioli, canned tuna or chicken, easy to fix macaroni and cheese, fruit cups, applesauce cups, pudding cups, packs of raisins, Ramen noodles, individual packages of oatmeal, cream of wheat, or grits, cereal bars, pop tarts, snack crackers (peanut butter crackers, cheese crackers, etc.) and sleeves of crackers.

**Current Recipient:** The current recipients are 16-20 children at Snow Creek Elementary. If there is excess, it is donated to the New Hope Boys and Girls Club.

### **Purpose:**

More than 12,000 children live at or below the federal poverty level. Higher food and fuel prices have forced some parents or guardians to make difficult decisions that leave family members hungry. Hungry children have lower test scores, diminished learning capacity, increased behavioral problems and increased tardiness and absences.