

**There is a solution and its not a secret.**

**Backpacks For Kids, a program managed by Food For People, Humboldt County's Food Bank, identifies and reaches out to these children right in their schools. Every weekend a backpack or bag of healthy kid-friendly food items goes home with our most needy elementary school children.**

**For five years volunteers, civic clubs and foundations have joined together to support the Backpacks For Kids program by funding the food costs and even packing and delivering them to schools throughout Humboldt County.**

**Your turn to help support Backpacks For Kids is coming up.**

**Backpack Buddy Night is coming Sunday, May 20th to Cher-ae Heights Casino. Sponsored by the United Rotary Clubs of Eureka and the Soroptimist International of Humboldt Bay, the evening includes Music, food, games and a live and silent auction. All proceeds will go to fund the Backpacks For Kids program in the coming school year. Tickets are just \$ 30.00 and can be purchased at Old Town Coffee and Chocolates and at SHN Engineering in Eureka.**

**Backpacks For Kids is not a secret but it does help solve weekend hunger for kids who don't ask or deserve to be hungry while they are growing up. Backpack Buddy Night let's you be a buddy and do something positive about weekend childhood hunger. Call two-six-nine---four three-three- five for more information. Won't you help us make sure no child goes hungry in Humboldt County?**

**This has been John Bradley for Community Comment on KINS Radio**

**Its not a secret. 5,500 schoolchildren in Humboldt County qualify for a free or reduced school lunch.**

**Five days a week the school lunch, and, for some, the school breakfast and after school snacks provide their most dependable meals. Through no choice of their own, their families or guardians are living at or below the Federal poverty level.**

**Its not a secret that weekends present an unwelcome challenge for these children.**

**On weekends a working parent may not be able to prepare a nutritious meal if other expenses like gas, rent, insurance and medicine use up the cash between paychecks. A care giving grandparent may not have the resources to shop and prepare a meal. A single parent working two jobs won't always be home at mealtimes and siblings won't always provide smart choices.**

**Its not a secret that these local schoolchildren and our community suffer.**

**In the short term, returning to school after 55 hours of catch-as-catch-can meals can make Jack or Jane an irritable and anxious classmate. Over time, the weekend hunger cycle can lead to behavioral and psychological problems, poor physical and attention skills and an inability to focus and learn.**

**And for our community the consequences of childhood hunger affects the lives of every one of us as we struggle to encourage a generation of less fortunate children into productive citizenship.**