



## ORCF Backpack Initiative Background

Backpack programs were developed in response to children from low income families frequently coming to school hungry on Mondays after not having enough to eat over the weekend, and provide packages of kid-friendly, shelf-stable foods distributed confidentially into the backpacks of needy kids on Friday afternoons. Children are normally eligible based on qualifying to receive free or reduced price lunches. Feeding South Florida already successfully operates such programs in Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach Counties, but not Monroe. The FSF backpack food packages contain two nutritious breakfasts, lunches, dinners and snacks (more detail available).

The Foundation requested a “backpack” proposal from Feeding South Florida for Monroe County based on the fact that the food pantry serving the Upper Keys is actually located outside of Key Largo in Tavernier and not necessarily accessible to all those who are food insecure in Key Largo. Backpack programs were identified as the best vehicle to get food directly into the hands of the most vulnerable population, small children. The Backpack program will bring new services to the under-served Upper Keys for the first time and has already connected a variety of vetted organizations we partner with which recognize the need and are enthusiastic and ready to cooperate.

## ORCF Community Grants Program Pre-School & Summer Backpack Project

This primary project is a collaboration with the lead agency, Feeding South Florida, the Early Learning Coalition (including eight Upper Keys childcare centers) and the Key Largo YMCA Summer Camp. Because there is no federal food program such as free or reduced lunch for pre-schools in Monroe County and school age children do not have access to free and reduced price lunch during the summer months, these most vulnerable kids were targeted in the primary proposal. The project would benefit pre-schoolers from families with incomes qualifying them for subsidized childcare through the Early Learning Coalition and YMCA campers qualifying for 50 to 100 percent scholarships to attend (information on criteria for both is available). The pre-school project would serve all 150 pre-school children receiving subsidized childcare in the Upper Keys and the YMCA project would serve about 50 children in the 10 week summer camp. These two programs have received the highest initial project ranking by the ORCF Grants Committee so are highly likely to be recommended to the ORCF Board for approval for full funding.

## Complementary ORCF Private Donor Key Largo School Project

News of the Backpack Initiative has inspired private donors who have already pledged \$60,000 in matching funds to build the effort. The resulting project is a collaboration between the lead agency, Feeding South Florida, and Key Largo School, which serves as both the public Elementary and public Middle School for all of Key Largo. The grant would provide the backpack program to the next most vulnerable group, Pre-K through 3rd grade at Key Largo School. The initial effort would fund the program for about 280 students for both the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school years. The greater goal is to establish and build a KLS Backpack Hunger Relief Fund to continue the project and make a meaningful impact over time.

***If both projects were fully funded, the Ocean Reef Community would effectively be providing supplemental nutrition for virtually all disadvantaged pre-school through 3rd grade children in Key Largo.***



Flip to see the ORCF Backpack Initiative By the Numbers ...



# ORCF Backpack Initiative BY THE NUMBERS

The cost of the Feeding South Florida Backpack Program is \$6 per child, per week.

## ORCF Community Grants Upper Keys Pre-school & Summer Projects Costs

The primary proposal funds the two most vulnerable groups of disadvantaged children, those in pre-school and summer camps where no free or reduced price lunch programs are offered.

For a year-round pre-school program, the cost of backpacks is \$312 per child.

To fund all 150 preschool children anticipated to receive subsidized childcare in all eight centers for a year the total cost is ...

**\$46,800**

For a 10 week summer camp, the cost of backpacks is \$60 per child.

To fund all 51 children anticipated to attend on 50 to 100 percent scholarships the total cost is ...

**\$3,060**

**Total Per Year**

**\$49,860**

## Complementary ORCF Private Donor Key Largo School Project Costs

KLS currently has 499\* students in Pre-K through 8th grade qualifying for the free and reduced price lunch program. The secondary proposal funds the next most vulnerable age group of disadvantaged children, those Feeding South Florida prioritizes because they are the least self-sufficient.

For a 40 week school year, the cost of backpacks is \$240 per child.

To fund all 276\*\* children currently in Pre-K through 3rd grade (which is five grades/age groups including kindergarten) receiving free or reduced price lunches, the total cost per school year would be ...

**\$66,240**

**Initial Private Donor Fundraising Goal for Two Years**

**\$132,480**

## KLS Backpack Hunger Relief Fund MATCH OPPORTUNITY

**\$60,000**

News of the Backpack Initiative has inspired private donors who have pledged \$60,000 in matching funds to build a KLS Backpack Hunger Relief Fund to complement a pre-school and summer camp effort by the Community Grants Program. The greater goal is to establish and build a fund to continue the project and make a meaningful impact over time.

**MATCHED!**



\* The cost to fund all 500 eligible students at KLS is \$120,000 per year. Expansion could be considered by grade.

\*\* Suggest rounding up on Key Largo School numbers slightly to account for fluctuations which have already been accounted for on pre-school numbers.