

NEWSLETTER

HIGHLIGHTS

705

total individuals served
through our food pantry

110

total individuals helped
not in our service area

7,482 LBS

total of
food distributed

\$12,307

total value of food and
hygiene products distributed

\$4,900

total utility assistance granted
(Ameren and Spire bills)

A NOTE FROM HALEY

Imagine being a student and it's Friday. Your classmates are all excited to go home with weekends packed with family, friends, and extracurriculars. Now, imagine being a student who is food-insecure. For you, Fridays represent something very different and challenging.

Fridays can mark a 48-hour stretch where you might not get enough to eat. For **roughly 194,000 students in Missouri**, this is the reality of living in a food insecure home.

At the Wellston Center, our core programs target providing at-risk children supplemental food and school supplies. During the month of August into September, we provide backpacks filled with the necessary tools for a productive and prepared school year. We also ensure that households with children receive children-specific groceries to help offset food insecurity, such as a fun cereal and granola bars.

Thank you for supporting our mission to help children succeed no matter their household status.

With gratitude and appreciation,



H. Calabro
Haley Calabro, MSW
Executive Director

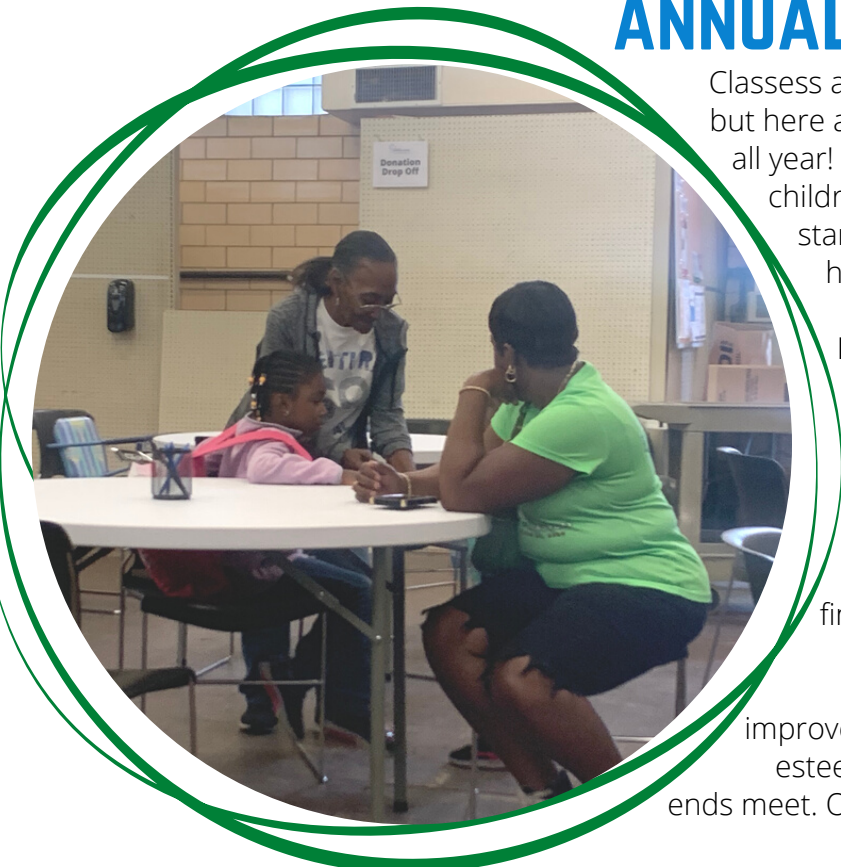
MONTHLY FOOD DRIVE

PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY

The month of **September**, we are focusing on our kiddos back at school in need of a quick and nutritious lunch. What is better than a filling PB&J sandwich? If you have any questions regarding drop off, please email info@wellstoncenter.org.



ANNUAL BACKPACK PROGRAM



Classes are officially back in session - in-person and virtual. - but here at the Wellston Center, we've been planning almost all year! Most of the families that we serve with school-aged children are in need of backpacks and school supplies to start the school year off right. For many years, with the help of generous donors like yourself, **the Wellston Center has prepared backpacks through our Backpacks for Kids distribution events serving over 250 local children.** Several of our retired educator volunteers research the local school district's supply lists to pack backpacks according to grade requirements. That way, each student is getting exactly what they need to succeed! When families are low-income, the majority of their finances are allocated toward monthly bills and food, leaving little extra to spend on school supplies. By equipping kids with school supplies, we are able to improve access to quality education, increase student self-esteem, and provide relief to parents struggling to make ends meet. On behalf of all the local kiddos we serve, thank you for your continued support of our mission!



August Feature

Top Requested Food Items

Canned Fruit
(454 cans distributed)

Canned Tuna
(434 cans distributed)

Canned Vegetables
(365 cans distributed)

Most Requested Hygiene Products

Laundry Detergent
(118 bottles distributed)

Toilet Paper
(312 rolls distributed)

Bars of Soap
(128 bars distributed)

Current Food Pantry Needs

- Pasta
- Canned Chili
- Canned Chicken
- Healthy Snacks
- Kleenex
- Body Lotion
- Adult Diapers (M-XL)

COMMUNITY IMPACT NETWORK

NEW NONPROFIT MEMBERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

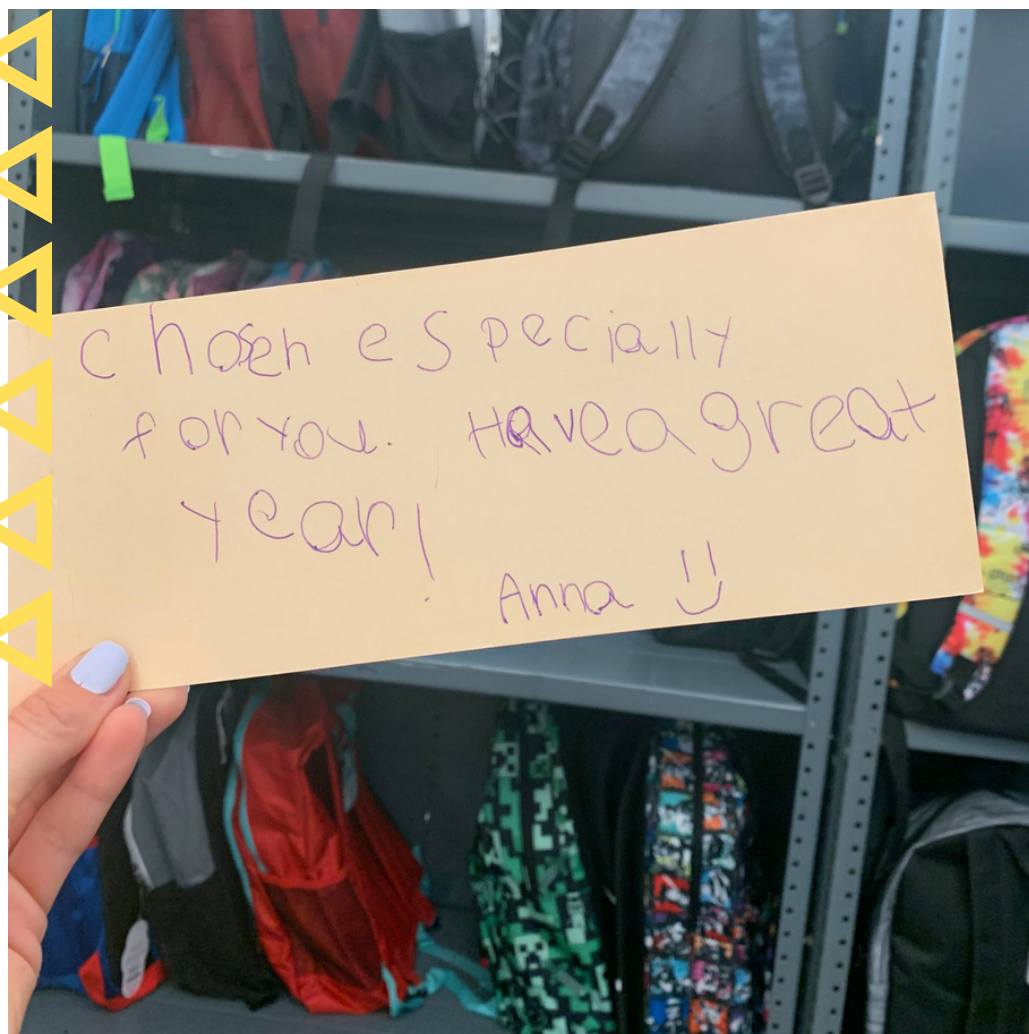
In the month of August, the Wellston Center became a member of the CIN Back2Basics Coalition, which honors the dignity of the community by **increasing access to life's basic needs.** This new membership establishes a framework of collaboration and cooperation among local nonprofits within the Normandy Schools Collaborative footprint.



A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU

EMPOWERING CHILDREN IN NEED TO SUCCEED IN SCHOOL

Thanks to St. John Bosco Catholic Church, St. Joseph (Manchester) Parish, St. Richard Catholic Church, and some very special volunteers, we were set to distribute **over 260 backpacks** to the local children who cannot afford school supplies. Some of the donations were even filled with kind notes to the children that we serve. Providing free essential tools to learning is paramount to improving access to quality education.



MAKE AN IMPACT



Making your donation through **Venmo** is a quick and convenient way to give right from your phone.

@Wellston-Center



Making your gift **online** is secure, fast, and easy. You can make a one time gift, a series of monthly contributions, or a perpetual gift.



A **check** can be made payable to the St. Augustine Wellston Center to support any initiative that is meaningful to you.