Approximately 60% of children in the Houston area rely on free and reduced lunch during the school year. Proper nutrition is vital to the growth and development of children. Children without proper nutrition have difficulties concentrating in school, tend to have more social issues, and are more prone to chronic illness that can hinder their growth and advancement. The Houston Food Bank has a variety of programs that equip children and their families with tools they need to be successful.

Many children rely on school meals for breakfast and lunch during the week but then have little to eat on the weekends. The Backpack Buddy Program works to fill the weekend gap for chronically hungry children by providing nutritious, child-friendly food for school children to take home over the weekend. 2.5 million meals were provided through Backpack Buddy last fiscal year.

Kids Cafe provides healthy meals to low-income children at after school enrichment sites; many of these children would otherwise have little or no food in the evening. Participation can encourage academic success, health and wellness and physical activity. 2.6 million meals were provided through Kids Cafe last fiscal year.

Classes in nutrition, food safety, meal preparation and budgeting are taught in collaboration with Food Bank partners by Houston Food Bank’s team of dietitians and nutritionists. 7,080 people participated in Nutrition Education classes last fiscal year.

The School Market Program alleviates child and teen hunger in our community by providing food to students and their families at middle and high schools. School Markets are located on campus for easy access, with set distribution schedules. As an alternative, mobile markets bring food to campus on a truck with a large refrigerated trailer. 2.9 million meals were provided through School Market last fiscal year.

Many children can’t afford the most basic school supplies. Without the proper tools to do the work, children are challenged to achieve academic success. Many compassionate teachers pay for school supplies from their own pockets so their students have a more productive, efficient learning experience. The Teachers Aid program provides the supplies kids need to succeed. 503,152 pounds of supplies were distributed through Teachers Aid last fiscal year.

Our Mission: Food for better lives
Our Vision: A world that doesn’t need food banks

A gift of $10 provides access to 30 meals for someone in the community.