Imagine that you are a child who can’t attend school because of the COVID-19 pandemic. You are continuing to learn in a virtual classroom now, but here’s the catch – you don’t have food at home and you are hungry.

The cafeteria food that used to keep you full is no longer an option. How do you focus and learning when you can’t stop thinking about how empty your stomach is?

Thanks to donors like you, and partners like Food City, Southwest Virginia families of the 1,085 children in over 30 schools enrolled in the Backpacks Unite Program received Food City food gift certificates for parents and guardians to purchase healthy meals. Keeping our students full and focused during these uncertain times gives them opportunities equal to those students that can continue to be well fed.

Martha of Lebanon Middle School stated, “The Food City gift certificates were a wonderful way to support our students during these new times.”

Weekend meals were still made possible thanks to our partners, Food City. Food vouchers distributed to families can provide the nutrition kids need to keep learning even at home.

Martha feels confident that Backpacks Unite will continue to be a blessing to many children and families in the region during these uncertain times. Children can continue to grow and learn and parents can be at peace of mind knowing their child won’t fall behind.

Although distribution may look a little different this year, at-risk students learning from home will not have to worry about where their next meal will come from.

For more information contact Deborah McCroskey at dmccroskey@unitedwayswva.org
Ofc: 276.525.4101 | cell: 865.207.6149
United Way of Southwest Virginia | 276.628.2160 | Abingdon, VA