



# Food Bank of WNY

*Serving Cattaraugus, Chautauqua,  
Erie and Niagara Counties*

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## **Food Bank of WNY receives grant from the Morgan Stanley Foundation to expand BackPack Program, feed more children**

**BUFFALO, N.Y. (May 31, 2018)** — The Food Bank of WNY today announced a \$50,000 grant from the Morgan Stanley Foundation to fund its BackPack Program. Employees from Morgan Stanley's Buffalo branches volunteered at the Food Bank as part of Morgan Stanley's "Feeding Kids Around the Clock" initiative, 24-hours of continuous employee volunteer activities around the world dedicated to raising awareness of childhood hunger.

The Food Bank's BackPack Program provides nutritious and easy-to-prepare food to children to take home on weekends when other resources may not be available. Currently, the program serves 2,967 students in 46 schools throughout Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie and Niagara counties. The grant from the Morgan Stanley Foundation will enable the Food Bank to expand the program to serve six additional schools and approximately 300 more students in the 2018-2019 school year.

"We are thrilled to receive this very important grant from the Morgan Stanley Foundation in support of our efforts to deliver more nutritious meals to children and families in Western New York. In fact, there is a waiting list for schools to be part of this program so it is a gift to be able to start to serve these children who have been waiting for and truly need this help," Tara A. Ellis, President and CEO of the Food Bank of WNY, said. "Morgan Stanley and its employees provide vital support for the Food Bank of WNY with generous contributions of funds and volunteer time."

The Foundation awarded a total of \$1,000,000 in grants to Feeding America® member food banks across the country. Since 2009, the Foundation has partnered with Feeding America, a nationwide network of 200 food banks, and given more than \$23 million to help launch, expand and sustain critical child nutrition programs.

"We are honored to be able to help the Food Bank of WNY in its important fight against child hunger," said Local Branch Managers Mary Ann Coulson and Michele Holbrook. "Our employees are delighted to be part of the kick off of Global Volunteer Month volunteering at The Food Bank of Western New York, and extend our support to the children in our community," said John Powers, Western New York complex manager.

"Grants like this from Morgan Stanley make a vital difference in our efforts to provide children with the nutritious meals they need every day," said Matt Knott, president of Feeding America. "Nearly 13 million children in the United States live at risk of hunger. Together, we can fight hunger and help children get the fuel they need to grow healthy and strong."

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### **About the Food Bank of WNY**

The Food Bank of WNY is the primary hunger-relief organization in Western New York, obtaining and distributing food to 335 member agencies, including food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, group homes and youth programs in Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie and Niagara counties. Through these agencies, the Food Bank of WNY serves as many as 140,000 individuals in any given month, including 45,300 households, 54,500 children and infants and 18,370 seniors. For more information, visit [www.foodbankwny.org](http://www.foodbankwny.org).