

Organization Name: [United Church of Gainesville](#)

### Organization Info

**Year Established:**

**Most Recent 990 Year:**

**Total Revenue:**

**Total Expenses:**

**Philanthropy Hub Profile Created:** Yes

### **Program Snapshot**

**Program Name:** Rawlings Elementary Food4Kids Backpack Program

**Contract Number:** 11542

**Award Amount:** 8900

**Expenditures through 9/30/20:** %:

**Extension Requested:**

**Type of Program:** Other

**Program Summary:** Backpacks of food for youth experiencing food insecurity

**Target Population:** School-Age: Elementary

**Program Staffing:**

Volunteer based

**Program Site(s):**

Marjorie K Rawlings Elementary (3500 NE 15th St, Gainesville, FL)

**Partner(s):** Catholic Charities and Trinity United Methodist Church

**To be completed by the Providing Agency**

How much?	How well?	Anyone better off?
<p><b>Expected # of children to be served:</b> <b>170</b></p> <p><b>Intensity of Services:</b> <b>On-going engagement (weekly sessions)</b></p> <p><b># of youth receiving weekend food supplies</b></p>	<p>% of youth receiving weekend food supplies</p> <p>170 until 3/20 125 in 6/20</p>	<p>% of youth reduced food insecurity</p>

## **Project Narrative:**

Describe what has been accomplished year-to-date.  
Include any adjustments due to COVID-19 or any other helpful information

Until March of 2020, the United Church of Gainesville Food4Kids backpack program was serving 170 children at Rawlings Elementary School, providing nonperishable foods in backpacks so that children would have a source of food over weekends. In mid-March in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, schools in Alachua County were shuttered and the backpack program ceased operation. However, in June, the program resumed to feed the 125 participants who were attending summer school. We were not able to send backpacks home with the children with the expectation of them being returned and refilled as there was the potential that they could be contaminated with virus, putting our volunteer packers at risk. We switched to using inexpensive cloth grocery bags that did not need to be returned. As the size of these is more limited and they did not have handles and wheels as the backpacks did, we had to make alterations to the food package so that it was not so heavy.

Although children returned to school at the end of August, we have not yet resumed the backpack program but have been in communication with Mrs. Creamer, the principal at Rawlings. She has requested that we wait until the end of October to resume the program as more children return to on-site education every week. She expects these numbers to stabilize by the end of the month. We will resume service using the model that we adopted in June of sending food home in cloth grocery bags. Food and grocery bags have been purchased using The Children's Trust grant to support the resumption of the program.