



You can help keep kids smiling.

Did you know that in 2012, 43.3% of students in Wisconsin public schools qualified for the Free and Reduced Meal Program? That rate is even higher in the elementary schools. This is a good program that provides breakfast and lunch for students at school, but what happens to these students on the weekends and over holiday breaks when these meals are not provided? Some go hungry.

For the past 4 years the Osceola Open Cupboard has been supporting Osceola School District students with a backpack of food on Fridays that they bring home for the weekend. Students return the backpack empty on Monday to be refilled for the next weekend.

The backpack presents a challenge when trying to fulfill a family's nutritional needs. Students have a hard time carrying home certain items because they are perishable or simply weigh too much. Examples include milk, canned goods and fresh or frozen fruits and vegetables.

The Open Cupboard works with the Salvation Army by providing milk coupons in the backpacks but this still leaves fruits and vegetables unaddressed. In a collaborative effort the Osceola Community Health Foundation, The Open Cupboard and Dick's Fresh Market have begun to raise funds to support a coupon for fresh or frozen fruits and vegetables for this year's Backpack Program. Families can redeem the coupon at Dick's Fresh Market in Osceola.

To date OCHF has helped to raise more than \$2,500 of the \$10,000 needed to support the fruit and vegetable initiative. Dick's Fresh Market is fundraising for this effort the week of September 30 – October 6. You can help by simply adding funds to your grocery payment at Dick's Fresh Market the week of September 30th. The entire amount you contribute will go to help provide fruits and vegetables for the student Backpack Program at Osceola Elementary and Intermediate Schools.

OCHF is a regional non-profit organization that has given more than \$11.9 million to Osceola Medical Center and other community non-profit organizations. The foundation's mission is building healthy communities by fostering charitable support for OMC and the health related needs of the people in the upper St. Croix Valley. For more information about OCHF go to MyOCHF.org.



Above Sue Gerlach , OCHF Director; Roseanne Anderson, The Open Cupboard Director;and Tim Adams, Dick's Fresh Market - Osceola Store Manager.