

Challenge Match: Christian Charities of Richmond/Wayne County

Written by Palladium-Item

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The Wayne County Foundation has chosen 35 area organizations to participate in two weeks of intense fundraising called the Challenge Match.

The one-to-one match offers the possibility of generating \$338,500 or more for non-profit organizations throughout Wayne County. The program is designed to help organizations develop new donors and encourage increased giving from regular contributors.

The Challenge Match program runs Nov. 12-25. Qualifying contributions to the participating organizations during that period will trigger matching dollars from the foundation, within certain limits. Learn more at www.waynecountyfoundation.org or call (765) 962-1638.

Participating agencies will be featured in future editions of the Palladium-Item.

Christian Charities of Richmond/Wayne County Inc.

- **Mailing address:** 3121 Southeast Parkway, Richmond, IN 47374
- **Phone:** (765) 962-7707
- **Contact name, title and email address:** Guy Guthrie, treasurer, guyguthrie@guyguthrie.com
- **Annual budget:** \$18,000
- **Mission of your organization:** Backpack Blessings is a two-lunch backpack that is given to all children in qualified schools on the Friday before the last weekend of each month. It centers on providing nutritional needs for young kids so their school performance on the following Monday does not suffer. At this time, the program serves Starr Academy, Vaile, Fairview and Crestdale elementary schools.
- **How much do you hope to raise during the matching grant period?** We are looking to match our challenge grant of \$5,000 to earn a total of \$10,000 for our program.
- **For what specific projects or needs do you intend to use the donated money?** Operation Backpack Blessing is an outreach to the needy elementary school students in Richmond. The goal is to allow students to maintain their personal focus on their studies in the last part of each school month. Teachers had noticed a drop in school performance on Monday after the last weekend and brought this concern to the community.

Operation Backpack Blessing is designed to give the kids at elementary schools with high rates of free/reduced fee lunches a bag of two meals for their use at the end of the month. Within the Richmond schools system, four schools with high free/reduced lunch rates are served, Starr Academy, Crestdale, Fairview and Vaile.

Christian Charities Inc. is the financing and accounting partner in a community-based outreach to these

students, and Communities in Schools takes care of the backpacks in-school.

This partnership includes the Circle U Help Center, McFarling Foods, Wesler Orchards, First Presbyterian Church, Richmond Community School Dietary, members of the Emmaus Community, First English Lutheran Church, the Wayne County Foundation, West End Bank, First Bank Richmond, the New Testament Church of Christ, Reid Hospital Community Fund and the Women's Giving Circle.