

**Bridges Backpack Program**

**Hi-Liner Pantry**

**Valley City, ND**

HI-LINER PANTRY HISTORY

The Bridges Backpack Program started delivering backpacks in fall 2014 and has given out over 24000 backpacks to student’s preschool thru 6th grade in the surrounding schools. The fall 2017 the Bridges Backpack Program expanded and added a Food Pantry for 7th – 12th grade students. The Food Pantry will be called: HI-LINER PANTRY.

The HI-LINER PANTRY is also partnered with the Great Plains Food Bank, which will help alleviate child hunger through the provision of food/essential items at VCHS School. We have served over 12000 meals from the Pantry since fall of 2017.

The Hi-Liner Pantry is located on the grounds of our school and aims to provide anonymous and confidential food/essentials to our VCHS 7th grade thru 12 grade students and their families in need.

What types of items will be available at the school pantry? Most of the items available are shelf stable, nutritious, and easy to prepare so that the children are able to care of themselves as much as possible. We will have a Refrigerator for fruits, meals and more.

Some items that will be available:

* Peanut butter and jelly
* Crackers
* Canned tuna or chicken
* Cereal
* Canned soups and pasta meals
* Applesauce, canned fruit
* Granola bars, fruit bars, etc.
* Assortment of hygiene products
* Other miscellaneous items
* Refrigerated food items

Cinch backpacks are provided for students to carry their items.

Is there a charge to students and families who receive assistance? This program will be provided at NO CHARGE to the students participating in the Hi-Liner Pantry program. (No income requirements)

Participation will be reliant on referrals from you as staff, counselors, administrators, and/or parents. Referrals will be made to coordinator by paper or by email. All referrals are strictly confidential. (Example; when a student is referred they will be given a numbered backpack for the items needed. This is so no names are used.) Referral forms /information forms will put in your mailbox as soon as things are finalized.

The Hi-Liner Pantry is funded thru the Bridges backpack program and contributions businesses and the community.

The hours for the Hi-Liner Pantry is open anytime there is a need. There will also be evening hours offered to families in need, TBA.

 Information is on our website [www.hiliner.org](http://www.hiliner.org), go under about us; VCHS Hi-Liner Pantry. Documents and other information will soon be added

For more information:

Penny Peterson-penny.peterson@k12.nd.us