Looking forward towards 2021:

**Fleming County Backpack Program Supporter:**

The Fleming County Extension Service has managed the Fleming County Backpack Program for over ten years now. Gwen O’Cull and I got the program started. Later, Barbara Campbell joined the program. The three of us have hosted the Fleming County Backpack Program with the help of an advisory council. On an annual basis, we have collectively served over 200 needy Fleming County children with food to help them through the weekends.

Our success in helping these children can be attributed to generous donations from you and others in the community. I have been amazed over the many years how much support we have received through donations of dollars, food and people power to help pack and deliver the food. School principals, teachers, families and others have commented numerous times that this program has made noticeable improvements in the lives of their students.

Due to personnel changes in the Extension Office, we have worked with the Interagency Council and community members to devise a plan to continue this critical program outside of the Cooperative Extension Service. Barbara Campbell is retiring after 20 years of service. She has managed the week-to-week program activities along with myself and many volunteers who packed the food weekly. I am retiring after 39 years of service in Extension at the end of December, 2020.

Our amazing community has stepped up and indicated that this program continues to be essential. So, Fleming County Backpack Program will have new leadership this school year. The Extension office will still be assisting, but will not be handling the donations of funds or food in the office.

A group of well-qualified local community leaders will be handling the day-to-day operations of Fleming County Backpack Program. This group is well known to our staff and has extensive experience in dealing with our local school system, churches, businesses, and community organizations. Monetary donations can be made to A Better Community Foundation. This is the same 501c3 that fundraises and conducts Fleming County Agricultural Education Week in our local schools each year.

Please send all future monetary donations to:

**A Better Community Foundation**

121 E. Electric Ave
Flemingsburg, KY 41041

I encourage you to continue to support this highly impactful program. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this program is even more important than ever. Thanks for your continued assistance in helping this program to thrive.

Sincerely,

Donna Fryman
Fleming County Extension Agent for Family & Consumer Sciences