Dear  ,

One in four Michigan children suffers from hunger, robbing them of their energy, health and dignity. Malnutrition has devastating effects, especially in growing children; evidence shows malnutrition limits cognitive development resulting in lost knowledge, brainpower and productivity. The FRAC reports children living in poverty are most at risk. They are more likely to be ill and absent from school, experience disruption in growth, and are less likely to interact with people or learn from their surroundings. Anxiety, negative feelings about self-worth and hostility toward the outside world can also result from chronic hunger and food insecurity.

Kids' Food Basket, a Grand Rapids, Michigan based nonprofit, has been a force for attacking childhood hunger to help young people learn and live well for the past twelve years. We play a critical role in ending the cycle of poverty by providing kids with the nutrition they need to thrive.  Through our Sack Supper program, kids get a balanced, nutritious evening meal critical to the development of their brain and body.

Sack Suppers have what kids need to learn and live well.   The kids we serve also qualify for free/reduced breakfast and lunch at school, but may not know where from, or if, dinner will come.  In conjunction with school meals, Sack Suppers provide the adequate nutritional intake a child needs for proper brain development.  Over 29,580 children in Kent County, Michigan live in food insecure homes (Feeding America, 2011), and we know we are making a huge impact in the lives of the kids we serve.  Yet, we still have so much work to do to reach all those who need us.

Over the past decade, we've grown from serving 125 kids at 2 school sites in Grand Rapids, to now serving over 6,300 kids between 30 schools in Kent County and 2 schools in Muskegon County, Michigan. Both programs are charitably funded by their individual communities, and made possible through the help of over 200 volunteers every day!

Frederick Douglass said, "It is easier to build strong children, than to repair broken men."  We know that if children receive proper nutrition in the critical stages of development they are more likely to succeed in school and life.  Childhood hunger is a community problem, and Kids’ Food Basket offers a community solution.

We invite you    to join us in the year ahead as we further our mission to ensure that no child in our community goes to bed hungry, and every child who may face hunger has a pathway out of poverty that begins with a simple Sack Supper.  Thank you so much for your consideration.

We would love for a chance to further discuss our program with you.

Respectfully,