

# **Wapsie Valley High School Students Package 20,000 Meals to Combat Local Hunger**

**By: Natalie Risse, Chapter Reporter**

On Wednesday, May 11, approximately 175 Wapsie Valley High School students and staff packaged 20,000 meals in just under two hours. Senior FFA member, Dylan Lampe, applied and received a grant to fund this \$5000 adventure. He worked with the Outreach Program to organize the event. The Outreach Program, established in 2004 and based out of Des Moines, Iowa, is an organization dedicated to the mission of ending world hunger. They travel all over the country to lead meal packing events. Dry food, such as macaroni, rice, soy, and soup seasoning, are packaged by volunteers and sent to various locations throughout the world to be distributed. The families only need to boil water and add the dry ingredients to have a healthy, nutritious meal. Meals have a shelf life of up to two years before expiration. The food packaged by the students at Wapsie Valley this year will be helping local families in the Cedar Valley area through the Northeast Iowa Food Bank.

This is not the first time that Wapsie Valley students have helped fight the battle against hunger. In fact, this is the third year that Wapsie Valley has hosted a meal packing event. Every time, the students have packaged 20,000 meals, which brings the grand total to 60,000 meals packaged by Wapsie Valley students in an effort to combat local hunger. The students enjoy making a positive difference in the community. Wapsie Valley junior, Alexis Fowler, stated, "It feels good to help out." The meal packing events are a great opportunity for the students to have a chance to help those in need in the local community.

The Wapsie Valley FFA would like to extend a special thank you to the students and staff that helped package meals through the the Outreach Program for our Cedar Valley area.

**Captions:**

