



**Backpacks...showing the
love of Christ to children
and their families**

Making a Difference

A Merry Little Christmas Event

With its *Merry Little Christmas* event, Impact Church was determined to reach out during Christmas, display God's love, and affect its community through the gift of backpacks.

This past fall, SBC of Virginia churches purchased, filled, and donated over 2,000 backpacks for SBCV's Christmas Backpacks Mission Project. The project seeks to provide filled backpacks to churches serving in needy areas and to church plants for outreach ministry. Each backpack can help provide for a child and show the love of Christ to the child and his/her family. But in a sea of backpacks, it may be easy to wonder,

Will this one backpack I gave make a difference?

Impact Church in Chantilly, VA was determined to reach out during Christmas, display God's love, and affect its community. Through the generosity of SBCV churches, Impact received 80 backpacks to use in ministry. These backpacks and other donations enabled the church to work alongside Fairfax County police and local churches to bless over 150 people (69 students) through their *Merry Little Christmas* event. "It was an opportunity," said Pastor Terry Kim, "to connect and encourage one another and to show the community we are here to serve, especially in a post-COVID context."

Families who came to the event could take pictures with Santa, play Christmas games, "adopt" a beanie baby doll, and paint their faces. Gifts were available to choose from for the children and their parents!

Encouraged by the results of the event, Impact Church wanted to do more. They purchased additional gifts and took assembled backpacks to three SBCV international church plants: **Fullness of Christ Church** (Ethiopian), **Arabic Church** of Chantilly, and **Iglesia Biblica Bautista Emanuel** of Leesburg

(Hispanic). This multiplied their outreach to 200 more families.

Did your backpack make a difference? Of course! Some of the stories will never be known, but the initial 80 backpacks Impact Church received have multiplied the ministry to reach over 350 people!



...When we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God...As a result of your ministry, they will give glory to God. For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ. And they will pray for you with deep affection because of the overflowing grace God has given to you. Thank God for this gift too wonderful for words! 2 Corinthians 9:11-15 (NLT)