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Back to School Bash helps 650-plus kids

By Jessica Goode
The Bandera Prophet

More than 600 supply-filled backpacks were given away to children on Sunday during the Back To School Bash. Hosted by the Hill Country Samaritans and Bandera ISD, the annual event was the quintessential example of a community collaboration, the village raising the children. In addition to 600-plus backpacks, school supplies were given to 50 more students, more than 50 heads of hair were trimmed, athletes received required physicals and kids had some good old-fashioned fun. Rough estimates tallied around 1,000 people on site at the Lakehills Civic Center during the event, counting students, parents, volunteers and vendors. Activity tables, free hotdogs and chips, music, games and bouncy houses kept everyone entertained, and the few supplies that weren't distributed have been donated to teachers from Bandera ISD and Pipe Creek Christian School.

"To see this community, from many different areas, pull together and share this celebration and offer this support meant so much to me personally," event coordinator and Hill Country Samaritan representative Kelly Beedle said. "I thank God for His hand in it, and I thank each of you."