One local high school student is making sure that his senior project does more than earn him an A.

Parkway High School student Michael Farris is doing his senior project with United Way of Northwest Louisiana. Through United Way, Michael learned of the backpack program. The program is an initiative of the Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana that is designed to provide large baggies filled with food to underprivileged children for their consumption on weekends. The contents of the bag include things like juice, cereal, snacks and other kid-friendly items.

After learning of the program, Michael decided that he wanted to see more children served by the program. Since then, he has started a fundraiser at Parkway to engage the student body to give. He has enlisted the help of the principal, teachers, the KPAW Channel One news team, art classes and more. He's now working to get South Bossier businesses involved as well.

"We are very proud of Michael and applaud his accomplishments thus far," said Bruce Willson, President and CEO of United Way of Northwest Louisiana. "It's not every day that you see a young person so passionate about taking the lead to serve his community. He is definitely to be commended, and I hope that Michael's efforts inspire others to get involved, as well. We at United Way are working closely with him to ensure that he is successful with this endeavor."'

If you are interested in working with or donating to Michael's cause and furthering the efforts of the backpack program in Northwest Louisiana, contact the United Way today at 318-677-2504, online at www.unitedwaynwla.org, or via Facebook at www.facebook.com/unitedwaynwla.