



Who knew that a backpack could be a symbol of hope?

“These backpacks are more than just school supplies. They are a symbol of hope. When nearly one in three public school students drops out before graduating, we know we must do more to help our children succeed.”

– Marguerite W. Kondracke, President and CEO, America’s Promise Alliance, Washington, DC

“We have thousands of clients who can’t afford book bags and end up bringing their school supplies in a plastic grocery bag. The plastic grocery bag is ineffective in carrying school supplies and books, but it is also humiliating. Due to this generous donation, we have been able to end the humiliation of hundreds of students scared to go to school without a backpack.”

– Jane Addams Hull House Association, Chicago, IL

“It is a pleasure to be able to provide a new backpack to a child. It gives them the pride, confidence and self-esteem needed to succeed in school. They are able to come to school on equal footing with other students and concentrate on their studies rather than feeling that they have less than others.”

– Communities In Schools of Palm Beach County, West Palm Beach, FL

“The After-School All-Stars serves 20 at-risk schools in Las Vegas. The students in our programs may not always have the access to things that other students take for granted. The backpack program has allowed our students to have things like school supplies and backpacks to go to school ready to learn with confidence.”

– Greater Las Vegas After School All Stars, Las Vegas, NV

“Every child should be given a reason to be excited about going back to school. It’s not just the backpacks or the supplies they are getting, it’s the sense of purpose and self-esteem that we’re striving to build.”

– Rainbow Days, Dallas, TX

“One of our teachers noticed that one of her students was falling behind academically. When looking into the situation, the teacher found out that the student was not completing homework assignments because he did not have a backpack to transport his papers and books and the other kids were teasing him. When given a backpack, the student’s grades came back up... What a difference a simple backpack made in the life of that child!”

– Hillsboro School District, Hillsboro, OR

In 2009, the Office Depot Foundation will donate its 2 millionth backpack since the inception of its National Backpack Program in 2001. The Foundation believes strongly that it is making a difference in children’s lives by helping them build self-confidence, boost self-esteem and achieve greater success in the classroom – all as a result of being well-prepared for school.

For more information, please contact:

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