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Note to media: These backpacks are not available to the general public. They are being donated only to the designated recipients named below.

**OFFICE DEPOT FOUNDATION DONATES 7,500 COOL NEW SACKPACKS
TO HELP BROWARD COUNTY CHILDREN SUCCEED IN SCHOOL**

*National Backpack Program on Track to Help
More Than 2.5 Million Kids Since 2001*

Fort Lauderdale, Fla., August 9, 2011 – If you put together all 2.5 million kids that the [Office Depot Foundation](#) has reached through its National Backpack Program since 2001, they would fill up about 50,000 school buses! That’s a lot of kids – and a lot of success stories.

On Wednesday, August 10, the Foundation – the independent charitable giving arm of Office Depot® (NYSE:ODP) – will donate 7,500 cool new backpacks in five colorful designs to children served by Broward County non-profit organizations and schools. The Foundation will present the backpacks, which contain essential school supplies, during a special “Back-to-School Celebration” beginning at 10 a.m. at the Office Depot store located at 6325 North Andrews Ave. in Fort Lauderdale.

Through the award-winning National Backpack Program, which is now in its 11th year, the Office Depot Foundation will help deserving children prepare for school by donating 350,000 backpacks across the United States and internationally. The newly designed backpacks, which were specially created for the Foundation, reflect and respond to changes in the ways that children are taking their materials to school.

“In keeping with our mission – Listen Learn Care – we’ve created these fun and exciting backpacks in response to what kids have told us they like,” says Foundation President Mary Wong. “We are thrilled to donate these very cool backpacks to more children in a single year than ever before.”

In the past five years, Office Depot and the Office Depot Foundation have provided more than 40,000 backpacks and backpacks for kids in Broward County.

“Every year, we have seen our donations bring hope to children whose families might not be able to afford to buy school supplies,” Wong continues. “Parents and teachers alike tell us that we truly are helping children to build self-confidence, boost self-esteem and



achieve greater success in the classroom – all as a result of being properly prepared for school.”

Special guests scheduled to participate in the sackpack presentations Fort Lauderdale Mayor Jack Seiler and Florida State Representative Gwyn Clarke-Reed.

The non-profit organizations, schools and agencies scheduled to receive sackpacks during the August 10 donation event include:

- Ann Storck Center, Inc.
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Broward County
- Boys & Girls Clubs
- Broward County Parks and Recreation
- Broward County Public Schools & Broward Education Foundation
- Broward County Sheriff's Office/Oakland Park
- Broward House
- City of Deerfield Beach/Children Services
- City of Fort Lauderdale – Carter Park
- The City of Lauderdale Lakes
- Kids in Distress
- Kiwanis Club of Lauderdale Lakes/West Sunrise Foundation
- Mount Bethel Human Services Corporation, Inc.
- The Pantry of Broward
- The Salvation Army
- Serenity Family & Children Services Corporation
- Team of Life
- Urban League of Broward County
- WAR Ministries
- Women in Distress of Broward County, Inc.
- YMCA of Broward County, Florida Inc.

To provide its sackpacks to children in 2011, the Foundation is hosting 25 “Back-to-School Celebrations” in cities across the U.S. and in Puerto Rico – five of which will include Tony Stewart, driver of the No. 14 Office Depot/Mobil 1 Chevrolet in the NASCAR® Sprint Cup Series™. Thousands of sackpacks also are being donated through Office Depot stores in hundreds of local communities and in collaboration with Office Depot's Business Solutions Division in select cities.

Thousands more are being given to kids through the Office Depot Foundation's partnerships with the Tony Stewart Foundation, the National Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Association, Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA), Feed The Children, the Kids In Need Foundation, Zach Bonner's Little Red Wagon Foundation, the National Foundation for Women Legislators and a new partner, Samaritan's Feet International, which will distribute sackpacks both nationally and overseas. For the fourth consecutive year, donations will be made to children of the Navajo Nation in Arizona.

The Office Depot Foundation National Backpack Program is being inducted into the PR News 2011 Platinum PR Awards Hall of Fame in September. More information about the National Backpack Program can be found on the Office Depot Foundation's Facebook



page at www.facebook.com/officedepotfoundation. For information on the Office Depot Foundation and its initiatives, go to www.officedepotfoundation.org/. You can also follow the Foundation on Twitter at www.twitter.com/officedepotfndn.

About the Office Depot Foundation

The Office Depot Foundation is an independent foundation (tax exempt under IRC Sec. 501(c)(3)) that serves as the independent charitable giving arm of Office Depot, Inc. In keeping with its mission, Listen Learn Care[®], the Foundation supports a variety of programs that help children succeed in school and in life; enable civil society (non-profit) organizations to become more efficient and effective; help people and businesses prepare for disasters, then recover and rebuild afterwards; strengthen local communities through grants, product donations and volunteerism; and encourage community development through entrepreneurship and economic innovation. For more information, visit www.officedepotfoundation.org.

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