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### **NASCAR DRIVER TONY STEWART AND THE OFFICE DEPOT FOUNDATION TEAM UP TO DONATE 5,000 BACKPACKS TO CHARLOTTE-AREA CHILDREN IN NEED**

*National Backpack Program Celebrates Donation of Two Millionth Backpack*

**Charlotte, N.C., October 12, 2009** – Office Depot® (NYSE:ODP), a leading global provider of office products and services, and the Office Depot Foundation announced today that NASCAR star Tony Stewart, driver of the No. 14 Office Depot/Old Spice Chevrolet Impala SS in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series™, will join the Foundation on Wednesday, October 14, to donate 5,000 backpacks to non-profit organizations and schools in the Charlotte area.

The donations will be made during a special “Backpack Celebration” event beginning at 4 p.m. local time at the Office Depot store located at 9610 Pineville Matthews Road in Pineville, N.C. In addition to Stewart, special guests include Pineville Mayor George Fowler and Mayor Pro Tem Libby Boatwright; Charlotte Mayor Pro Tem Susan Burgess, representing Mayor Patrick McCrory; Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Superintendent Peter C. Gorman; Carrie B. Cook, Charlotte Regional Liaison for U.S. Senator Kay R. Hagan; North Carolina State Representative Kelly Alexander; and Mark Manning, chief financial officer for the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce.

This year, the Office Depot Foundation is celebrating an extraordinary milestone as it donates its *2-millionth backpack* since the inception of the National Backpack Program in 2001.

“The Office Depot Foundation™ believes strongly that we are helping children to build self-confidence, boost self-esteem and achieve greater success in the classroom – all as a result of being well-prepared for school,” said Foundation President Mary Wong. “We are extremely pleased to be able to donate our 2-millionth backpack at a time when so many children and families are dealing with the impact of the economic downturn.”

Stewart, a two-time NASCAR Sprint Cup Series™ champion, will help host the event as he prepares for the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series™ NASCAR Banking 500 race at Lowe’s Motor Speedway near Charlotte, N.C. (Saturday, Oct. 17, 7 p.m. EDT, ABC). He is currently competing in the season-ending “Chase for the Sprint Cup” and won the Sprint All-Star race at Lowe’s Motor Speedway earlier this year.



“I am so proud to partner with Office Depot and the Office Depot Foundation to donate thousands of backpacks to Charlotte-area kids in need and give them an extra boost of confidence at school,” said Stewart, who has taken on the role of driver/team owner with Stewart-Haas Racing in 2009. “Every kid deserves to go to school with the supplies they need to succeed, and it means a lot to me to help make that possible.”

The non-profit organizations and schools selected to participate in the October 14 backpack donation event include:

- A Child's Place of Charlotte
- Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Athletic League
- Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
- NeXus Urban Serve
- Trips for Kids
- YMCA of Greater Charlotte

To distribute its backpacks in 2009, the Foundation has hosted 25 “Back-to-School Backpack Celebrations” in cities across the U.S. and Canada – five of which featured Tony Stewart. Thousands of backpacks also have been donated by Office Depot stores in hundreds of local communities and in collaboration with Office Depot’s Business Solutions Division in select cities.

Thousands more backpacks have been distributed through the Office Depot Foundation’s partnerships with several national non-profit organizations – including the Tony Stewart Foundation, the National Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Association, City Year, Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA), Feed The Children, the Kids In Need Foundation, Nourish America and the National Foundation for Women Legislators, whose members are giving backpacks to children in all 50 states. For the second consecutive year, backpack donations are being made to children of the Navajo Nation in Arizona and the Rosebud Sioux Tribe in South Dakota.

For Office Depot store locations, please click on [Office Depot: Your Local Office Supply Store](#) to find locations near you.

For more information on the Office Depot Foundation, go to [www.officedepotfoundation.org/](http://www.officedepotfoundation.org/).

For more information about Office Depot Racing with Tony Stewart, go to <http://mediarelations.officedepot.cc/racing/default.asp>.

### **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<sup>®</sup>, 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](http://www.officedepotfoundation.org).



## **About Office Depot**

Every day, Office Depot is Taking Care of Business for millions of customers around the globe. For the local corner store as well as Fortune 500 companies, Office Depot provides products and services to its customers through 1,593 worldwide retail stores, a dedicated sales force, top-rated catalogs and a \$4.3 billion e-commerce operation. Office Depot has annual sales of approximately \$14.5 billion, and employs about 42,000 associates around the world. The Company provides more office products and services to more customers in more countries than any other company, and currently sells to customers directly or through affiliates in 47 countries.

Office Depot's common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol ODP and is included in the S&P 500 Index. Additional press information can be found at:

<http://mediarelations.officedepot.com>.

