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**Note to media:** These backpacks are not available to the general public. The backpacks are being donated only to the designated organizations named below.

**OFFICE DEPOT BUSINESS SOLUTIONS DIVISION, OFFICE DEPOT FOUNDATION  
HELP CHILDREN SUCCEED IN SCHOOL BY DONATING 5,000 BACKPACKS  
IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**

*Donation Event Set for Thursday, 9/24, in Elk Grove*

**Elk Grove, Calif., September 22, 2009** – As children continue to settle in for the new school year, the Office Depot Business Solutions Division announced today that it will donate 5,000 backpacks to eight Northern California school districts to help ensure children’s success in the classroom. The donations are being made in collaboration with the [Office Depot Foundation](#).

Representatives of six of the school districts will receive backpacks during a special “Back-to-School Backpack Celebration” on Thursday (9/24) beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the Irene B. West Elementary School located at 8625 Serio Way in Elk Grove. This year, the Office Depot Foundation is marking an extraordinary milestone by donating its *two millionth backpack* since the beginning of its National Backpack Program in 2001.

During the Elk Grove event, backpacks will be donated to the following designated recipients:

- Elk Grove Unified School District
- Lincoln Unified School District
- Natomas Unified School District
- Lodi Unified School District
- Sacramento City Unified School District
- Woodland Joint Unified School District

The Stockton Unified School District and Tracy Unified School District also are receiving donations, but are unable to participate in the event.

Janet Toppenberg, President/CEO of the Elk Grove Chamber of Commerce, will be a special guest at the presentation ceremony.



“The Office Depot Business Solutions Division and the Office Depot Foundation believe 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 in school,” states Mary Wong, President of the independent foundation that serves as the primary charitable giving arm of Office Depot (NYSE: ODP). “We are extremely pleased to be able to donate our two millionth backpack at a time when so many children and families are dealing with the impact of the economic downturn.”

While the scale of the Office Depot Foundation National Backpack Program is global, it makes a difference on an individual level for every child it reaches. “Providing a backpack is one of the most important things we can do to promote success and resilience,” says Dr. Andrew Schneider-Muñoz, a Harvard-trained educator, child psychologist and vice president of the Center for Youth Development at the Academy for Educational Development in Washington, D.C. “A backpack helps a child to know that we care. It’s powerful in their lives and enables them to experience a level of support that they carry with them throughout the year.”

To distribute backpacks this year, the Office Depot Business Solutions Division is hosting or participating in events in selected cities across the United States, including Boston, Detroit, Phoenix and Minneapolis/St. Paul. In addition, the Foundation is hosting 25 “Back-to-School Backpack Celebrations” in the United States and Canada – five of which feature special appearances by Tony Stewart, driver of the No. 14 Office Depot®/Old Spice Chevrolet Impala SS in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series. Thousands of backpacks also are being donated by Office Depot stores in hundreds of local communities.

To learn more about the Office Depot Foundation National Backpack Program, please visit [www.officedepotfoundation.org](http://www.officedepotfoundation.org) or the [Two Million Backpacks](#) page on Facebook.

### **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>.

### **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](http://www.officedepotfoundation.org).

