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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 FOUNDATION DONATES 4,000 BACKPACKS
IN PHILADELPHIA; GIVES CHILDREN TOOLS TO SUCCEED IN SCHOOL**

2009 National Backpack Program Celebrates 2 Millionth Backpack Milestone

Philadelphia, Pa., August 31, 2009 – With the beginning of the new school year fast approaching, the [Office Depot Foundation](#) announced today that it will donate 4,000 backpacks to non-profit organizations and schools in the Philadelphia area to help children succeed in the classroom.

The donations will be made during a special “Back-to-School Backpack Celebration” on Wednesday (9/2) beginning at 2:30 p.m. at the Office Depot store located at 2400 Chemical Road in Plymouth Meeting. 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 Philadelphia event, backpacks will be donated to the following designated recipients:

- Arthur Ashe Youth Tennis and Education
- Caring People Alliance
- Colonial School District
- Federation Early Learning Service
- Philadelphia Children’s Alliance
- School District of Philadelphia
- Troopers Program Incorporated

Special guests scheduled to participate in the presentation ceremony include Ami Patel, Policy Assistant in the Mayor’s Office of Education, representing Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter; Plymouth Township Manager Karen Weiss; Pennsylvania State Representative Kate Harper; Colonial School District Superintendent Dr. Vincent F. Cotter; and John Byars, Director of Procurement for the School District of Philadelphia.



“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,” 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 the backpacks, the Foundation is hosting 25 “Back-to-School Backpack Celebrations” in cities across 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 and in collaboration with the Office Depot Business Solutions Division in selected cities.

Thousands more are being distributed through the Office Depot Foundation’s partnerships with eight 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 will give backpacks to children in all 50 states. For the second consecutive year, backpack donations will be made to children of the Navajo Nation in Arizona and the Rosebud Sioux Tribe in South Dakota.

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

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.

