

Did You Know?

Office Depot donates tens of millions of dollars in products to nonprofit organizations that serve children through its relationship with Gifts in Kind International, the world's leading charity in product philanthropy. Under the partnership with Gifts in Kind International each of the company's more than 900 stores are matched with a local charity in respective communities. All matched charities are predominantly focused on helping "at-risk" children. Every Office Depot retail store, warehouse, and crossdock has a charitable partner to which regular product donations are made.

- Office Depot provides free supplies to schools through its "5% Back to Schools" Program.
- Office Depot provides more than 200,000 underprivileged school children with a new backpack and school supplies for each new school year.
- All Office Depot store employees are trained in the six-step Code Adam program, one of the country's largest child-safety awareness initiatives. In 2001, Office Depot introduced Code Adam in its retail stores throughout North America.
- Every Office Depot Grand Opening, whether it is for a new store, a remodel of a relocation, features a Community Relations component, helping to show customers and area residents that Office Depot is truly a member of their community that is strongly committed to 'Caring and Making a Difference.'

Office Depot: "Caring and Making a Difference- Taking Care of Kids"

Simply put -- Office Depot invests in the future of children. Dedicated to "Caring and Making a Difference -Taking Care of Kids," this major corporation's charitable mission is to enhance the quality of life for children everywhere. How do they do it? According to Mary Wong, Director of Community Relations, the answer is simple. "You cannot try to help build a community unless you have a mission and a direction for the future. For us, children are our future."

Hope

Putting ideas into practice, Office Depot partners with hundreds of nonprofit organizations annually that share the company's belief and passion for making a difference in the lives of children... everywhere.

Office Depot's philanthropic partnerships include working with the City of Hope, which is dedicated to seeking out treatments and cures for diseases that take young lives. Having become a Comprehensive Cancer Center, the City of Hope is now one of the most advanced biomedical research and treatment facilities in the world.

The company has supported City of Hope for many years, which directly impacts the health of children by supporting the treatment of City of Hope's young patients suffering from life-threatening illnesses.

In fact, a number of Office Depot executives have received City of Hope's highest honor, the Spirit of Life Award. "This is an example," Wong says, "of how Office Depot believes in giving 365 days per year, not just during specific times, like during national holidays."

Reading is Fun

Recognizing the importance of developing fundamental skills of reading, Office Depot recently formed a corporate partnership with the American Library Association, which is the oldest, largest and most influential library association in the world with over 64,000 members. The national partnership is entitled, "Working Together to Build Success through Reading and Literacy."

According to Wong, Office Depot recognizes the critically important role that libraries play in educating its children and enriching their communities. Office Depot is recognized as a "Library Champion" for its contributions and the company regularly provides \$500 donations to local libraries in conjunction with new retail stores that are opened annually. In some cases "Office Depot's Reading is Fun" program is established for "at-risk" children in the community.

Power of Messaging

In an effort to help end hunger in North America, which affects over 9.3 million children, Office Depot partners with America's Second Harvest and the Canadian Association of Food Banks. Assisting both organizations by giving corporate financial donations, Office Depot makes it possible for customers to donate at the register and by raising awareness of volunteer opportunities available to employees and customers alike. In both cases, the contributions generated have proven helpful in providing emergency food assistance to children particularly in the summer, when school-based feeding programs often do not operate.

Additionally providing their employees with opportunities to volunteer at shelters to feed the homeless, Wong says she will never forget a homeless individual who came to her and said,

"Thank you...you have given back my dignity."

Local Efforts

In 2001, Office Depot began a program that is now hailed as one of the most successful and innovative national community outreach programs for kids. Originally providing more than 100,000 underprivileged schoolchildren with a new backpack and school supplies for the upcoming school year, the program is now valued at more than \$7 million. Each year the company now donates more than 250,000 backpacks with school supplies to "at-risk" children across North America through the company's retail stores throughout the United States and Canada. "We also make sure not to put any branding on these backpacks, not even the Office Depot logo," Wong says. "We don't want these kids to be distinguished or singled out from others."

Other educational programs include the company's "5% Back to Schools" initiative, where back-to-school shoppers at any of Office Depot's more than 900 retail stores in the U.S. and Canada can select a local school to receive a credit of 5% of qualifying back-to-school merchandise purchases. Taking place from May through December of each year, the program has enabled Office Depot to donate millions of dollars to thousands of schools across North America. Every year each of the company's retail stores also hosts "Teacher Appreciation Breakfasts" for teachers and administrators prior to school starting.

Striving to make a difference in the lives of children in a variety of ways, Office Depot has also instituted the following efforts:

- At each new retail store opening, Office Depot donates \$500 in the form of an Office Depot Money Card to the local Library, Food Bank and varying "grass-roots" children's organizations to be used for children's programs
- Office Depot is also the proud supporter of "Campaign for Change,"



One of 200 marketwide events celebrating "Backpack Donation Day" Office Depot donates more than 200,000 backpacks across the country to underprivileged children. This photo was an event held in Atlanta, Georgia, where the company donated more than 4,000 backpacks to children in the Atlanta area.

a program established by the Urban League of Broward County, Florida. A comprehensive outreach program that is dedicated to transforming Zip Code 33311 in central Broward, the campaign focuses on increasing school effectiveness, student achievement, stability and safety in the community through encouraging parental involvement in child development.

- Office Depot established the CHARLEE Children's Depot, a distribution and warehouse system for donated goods and services that are allocated to foster children and families in need throughout Miami-Dade County, Florida. Office Depot has been recognized with CHARLEE's Award for Corporate Leadership, helping 500 foster children and their families annually.

Corporate Stewardship

It is no surprise, therefore, that Office Depot was recently honored with the United States Chamber of Commerce's Corporate Stewardship Award for Large Companies, which recognizes businesses and chambers that have demonstrated ethical leadership and corporate stewardship. The award was presented to Charles Brown, Chief Financial Officer for Office Depot by Thomas Donohue, President and CEO of the U.S. Chamber, and U.S. Commerce

Secretary Don Evans. According to the Center for Corporate Citizenship, the Corporate Stewardship Awards are presented to companies that exemplify the highest ideals in corporate stewardship. "Those who are practicing responsible corporate stewardship are answering the President's call to service. They are serving a cause that is greater than themselves and I've seen the difference it can make," Secretary Evans said.

"Our environmental stewardship efforts and our National Backpack Program were singled out, in particular, as examples of our company-wide commitment to Caring and Making a Difference, and Taking Care of Kids," said Charles Brown, Chief Financial Officer for Office Depot. "Office Depot earned this recognition on the basis of its dedication to the principles of corporate social responsibility in all its forms," Brown added. Suzanne Clark, Chamber chief operating office and CCC president, concurs. "In 2004, we saw remarkable contributions by the business community in terms of disaster assistance, community service, and support for our troops," Clark said. "We also recognized some exceptional companies whose business success stemmed from their core values— Office Depot is a good example of such a company." ●