




Caring... and making a difference

TESTIMONIALS FROM NATIONAL NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Nancy Coate
Associate Ext. Director
Bayside Community Center
San Diego, CA

Office Depot's National Backpack Program makes a huge difference in our community. It provides an opportunity for our children, who come from some of the poorest homes in San Diego, to enter school at an equal level with their peers. It provides them an opportunity to begin school prepared with the tools to succeed.

Thanks to you one of our children won the raffle for a special backpack donated by the local Office Depot - the child returned his original Office Depot backpack with the comment: "I know you couldn't help all of us but now maybe you can help another kid." Several comments heard were: "Look my own backpack and it wasn't my brothers (sisters)." "Mommy look new paper." Now they won't laugh at my bag, I have a real backpack now."

Stephanie Sacks
Na'amat Canada Calgary
2004 School Supplies for Kids
Chairperson
Calgary, Canada

The backpacks have just arrived in Calgary and they are fantastic! We are very thankful to Office Depot. With the support of Office Depot, Na'amat School Supplies for Kids project addresses the year round need of the children who along with their mothers are living in domestic violence shelters in our community.

Office Depot's National Backpack Program definitely makes a tremendous difference in this community. If it were not for this program the children that are in Calgary region domestic violence shelters would not get the backpacks they need to enter a new school during this very difficult time in their lives.

Betsy Dobrick,
Congregation B'nai Israel
Program Director
Boca Raton, FL

I am so excited about Office Depot's National Backpack program! I am submitting it for a national award through the Union for Reform Judaism. I would love to have others know about the community minded spirit of Office Depot. I am totally impressed!

Margaret Delmont Sanchez
CDO
Hispanic Unity of Florida
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

We at Hispanic Unity believe that the program helps people who do not have financial means to purchase backpacks for their children. The program motivates youth to attend school by providing them with the necessary supplies to complete the school year.

Having Office Depot as a partner to help the underserved community, it has helped Hispanic Unity of Florida reach out and give a helping hand where it's mostly needed. We were able to provide 600 immunizations and 200 physicals to children before the 2004 school year began. There were 400 backpacks provided to the children. We only hope next year can be a much greater campaign to continue helping those in great need of support and motivation.

Michael Martucci
Memorial Middle School
Orlando, FL

Office Depot is an active player in the community. It is great to see businesses and schools come together as a professional learning community to positively impact the life of a child!

Judy Stamps
Executive Director
Kids In Need
Atlanta, GA

The children who receive the backpacks through Kids In Need Atlanta, are the ones who otherwise would be bringing their supplies in paper bags. To have a brand new backpack helps with self esteem.

Office Depot has been a great support system for Kids In Need, Atlanta. We always make sure that our clients are aware of what Office Depot means to Kids In Need.

Shirley Osipov, Director
Community Renewal of South Brunswick
South Brunswick, NJ

In South Brunswick we have provided backpacks (donated by Office Depot for 6 years) . We have filled them with school supplies and they have been distributed to needy children. These children are empowered and confident to begin their school year with the supplies they need.

Sue Ramsey
Office Director
M.D. Anderson Family YMCA
Houston, TX.

It is *awesome* knowing that Office Depot supports "family & community" values and does so by engaging our most cherished assets- children.

Debbie Geddes
Treasurer
Seattle Milk Fund
Seattle, WA

There are many children that have to start the school year without the items they need to help them learn. Children that do not have a backpack stand out from other children. Children don't want to be noticed this way. They want to fit in with their peers. These children are very thankful to begin school with a backpack and school supplies (and so are their parents).

Office Depot has been a wonderful partner in helping the Seattle Milk Fund distribute backpacks to disadvantaged children and aid in our effort to help them learn. So far for 2004 we have given out 600 backpacks thanks to 360 awarded to us by Office Depot. In 2003 we gave out 494 (200) from Office Depot. We were only able to give out 100 in 2002. It is quite rewarding to increase out giving and touch so many more children's lives.
