

# Community Heroes



(Left and below) District 32 and BSD teamed to donate backpacks to children from Operation Breakthrough. Special thanks to Kurt Ramos, liaison from the local satellite; Mike Smith, Manager of Store 212 (Independence, Mo.); and Centurion Johnson, CSM at Store 569 (Overland Park, Kan.). With their help, as well as extra backpacks received from Stores around the district, the event was a great success.



The team at Store 531 in Clarksville, Tenn., shared the fruits of their Celebrity Pumpkin deliveries with seniors at the Walking Horse Retirement Center.



Mary Wong, Office Depot's Director of Community Relations (fifth from left), joined Florida Governor Jeb Bush (center) for an educational youth summit in Orlando, Fla. Office Depot donated 1,000 backpacks for distribution to children who are mentored by participants in the Teen Trendsetters and the "Just Read, Florida!" program.



Jalen Rose of the Chicago Bulls played a key role in the kick-off of the Back to School campaign in District 23. Stores in the Chicago area sponsored an Operation Pencil Box promotion that enabled customers to make donations to help provide school supplies to needy children. District Manager Rochelle Rivas is standing at right.



Office Depot donated backpacks to the Inner City Youth Golfers organization and Grace Episcopal Learning Center in West Palm Beach, Fla.



BSD Account Manager Mark Proctor teamed up with the Store 651 in West Jordan, Utah, to bring 70 backpacks to the students in the K.I.D.S. Program (Kids Intensive Day Services) at Valley Mental Health, which helps special needs children adapt to everyday school life. Store Manager Norm Grow is pictured with several of these great KIDS.



Several employees from Memphis, Tenn., area stores participated in the LeBonheur Methodist Children's Medical Center radiothon on September 3 in conjunction with local radio station 98.1 The Cat. The Office Depot group staffed the phones for the entire afternoon. Overall the radiothon raised \$250,000 during the five-day event.



Pictured are (second from left) Round Rock, Texas, Store 2089 Manager Jeff Blanchard and CSM Tyrone Adams as they deliver items donated by their customers to needy children in the school district. Receiving the supplies are Berkman Principal Robert Carlin and C.D. Fulkes Middle School Principal Terrance Eaton. Supplies were donated in the annual "Stuff the Bus" promotion, which was held throughout the Austin area by District 44. Almost an entire pallet of supplies was donated. "We always shop Office Depot," the principals said, "and will always tell everyone we know to do the same!"

# In the Eye of the Storm

When disaster strikes, Office Depot rises to the occasion. In the face of recent fires, hurricanes and other emergencies, we have seen many wonderful ways in which members of the Office Depot family jump in when times are tough. Here are just a few examples.

## B.C. Stores Support Fire Relief Fund

The night before a scheduled Family Fun Day in British Columbia, Canada, 30,000 families were evacuated from their homes due to a forest fire that grew out of control. Office Depot Store 735 in Kelowna, B.C., quickly replaced the Family Fun Day with activities to assist hundreds of families who lost their homes and belongings. In support, the Stores in the Lower Mainland collected donations during their Family Fun Day events. The Office Depot Foundation donated \$2,000 each to the Kelowna Red Cross and the Red Cross in Kamloops, which was also affected. Store 732 in Kamloops and Store 735 in Kelowna donated another \$2,000 in office supplies to the Red Cross, which needed them desperately to set up camps for the firefighters and evacuation stations in the areas. Special thanks are due to the Office Depot Stores in the Lower Mainland Stores (713, 748, 726, 724, 747) as well as to the Office Depot Foundation for their support and donations, during these troubled times.



Pictured at the Kelowna Fire Station are (front row, from left) Rene Blanleil, assistant fire chief, and Store 748 Assistant Manager; and (back row, from left) Jeff Protasivich, CSM, Store 735; fire fighters Jeremy Schraeder, David McCarthy, Steve Roshinsky, Mark Kranabetter and Ian Chapman; and Store 735 Assistant Manager Kevin Code.

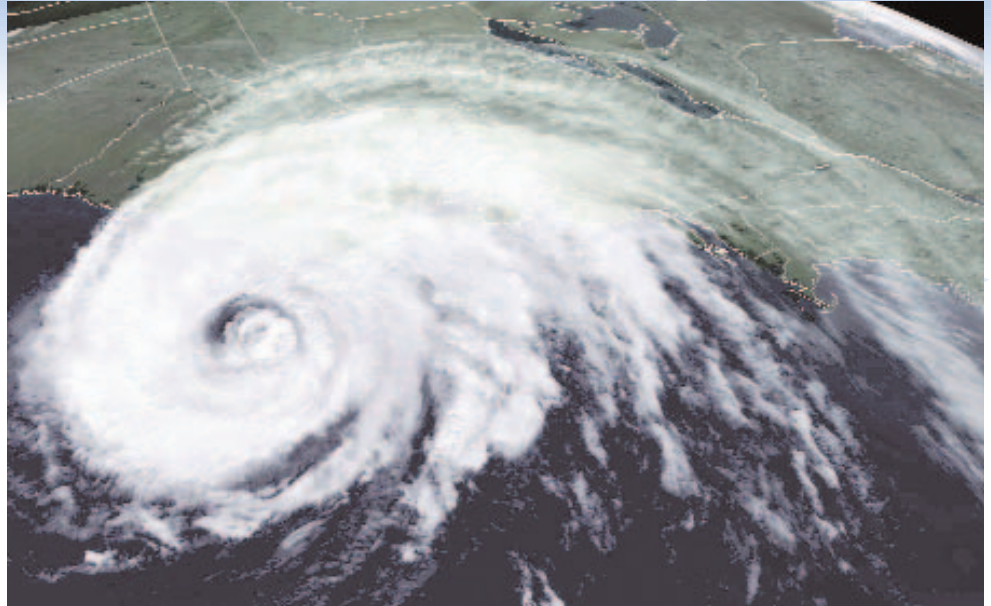


PHOTO CREDIT: NOAA

## Viking Goes the Distance

Here's a sampling of more than 100 testimonials received following Viking Office Products' offer to assist in replenishing supplies following Hurricane Isabel:

- "Wanted you to know how much your offer of help has meant to us."
- "I find your offer to help both generous and comforting."
- "Your spirit of charity and compassion is extraordinary."
- "It is rare these days to find a business that cares for its customers vs. caring just about the bottom line."
- "I just received your letter regarding the hurricane. I had to take a step back! I could not believe the kindness."
- "I just want to applaud you for your generosity and to thank you for being our office supplies provider."
- "What a caring, thoughtful gesture. Now I know why I ask all our employees to ask for supplies from your catalogs."
- "I have always relied on Viking, now I have another reason to continue this long association."

## A Note of Thanks

"On behalf of our students, community and teachers, I want to thank you for Office Depot's donation of backpacks for the students who lost their homes in Isabel. In the Turner's Station community of Dundalk, over 32 of our families lost everything. An apartment and house fire in which an additional four families lost everything followed. We so very much appreciate the help from our local community and businesses. This is not just relief for the families in need, but also helps to strengthen our community."  
 – Tom Shouldice, Principal, Dundalk Middle School, Baltimore, Md.

## A True Brand Ambassador

Replenishment Manager Phil Kerman nominated his colleague Jim Brower, Replenishment Planner, for a Brand Ambassador Pin for his tireless efforts when Hurricane Isabel hit the East Coast of the United States. "Jim coordinated, planned and assisted in the execution of many of the pre- and post-hurricane actions/items (water, trash bags, cleaning and janitorial supplies). He adjusted plans as the hurricane path changed continuously. He reconfirmed items and quantities he could obtain, as well as followed up hourly with his vendors. Jim's diligence and his fantastic relationship/collaboration with the vendors, DMs, Stores, Crossdocks and CSCs allowed this critical effort to come off very successfully," Phil wrote. "We also appreciate all the support the field, Crossdocks and CSCs provided during Hurricane Isabel."

**Coming Next Issue:  
Office Depot Employees Step Up  
In California Fire Relief Efforts**