



PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Michele Thompson
Leisure Services Director
Phone: 561-642-2180

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: July 26, 2016

City of Greenacres receives 300 backpacks from the Office Depot Foundation OFFICE DEPOT FOUNDATION DONATES 10,000 SACKPACKS TO WEST PALM-AREA CHILDREN IN 16TH YEAR OF NATIONAL BACKPACK PROGRAM

West Palm Beach, FL, July 26, 2016 – For most children, the first day of school is an exciting time complete with new clothes and back-to-school gear. But for kids in families where money is tight, the experience can be just the opposite.

To make a difference to deserving children like these at the start of the new school year, the [Office Depot Foundation](#) will donate 10,000 colorful new backpacks containing essential school supplies to nonprofit organizations, schools and agencies in the West Palm Beach area. The Foundation – the independent charitable giving arm of Office Depot – will make the donations during a special Back-to-School Celebration beginning at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 26 (7/26) at the Office Depot store located at 101a S. State Road 7 in West Palm Beach.

The Foundation is celebrating the 16th year of its award-winning National Backpack Program in 2016 by donating approximately 200,000 backpacks to children in all 50 states and internationally. During the past nine years, some 62,000 West Palm Beach-area kids have received tools to succeed in school through this program. By the end of this year more than 4 million backpacks and sackpacks will have been given away since 2001.

“The backpacks and school supplies we donate help to level the playing field and give these wonderful children a reason to stand just a little bit taller,” says Office Depot Foundation President Mary Wong. “We believe that every child should have the opportunity to go to school with dignity and hope. We are proud to make a difference in this community again this year.”

The nonprofit organizations, schools and agencies scheduled to receive backpacks on July 26 include:

- **Adopt-A-Family of the Palm Beaches**
- **ASPIRA of Palm Beach**
- **City of Greenacres / Leisure Services Department**
- **Communities In Schools Palm Beach**
- **Estella’s Brilliant Bus**
- **Extended Hands Community Outreach**
- **GCI Training & Empowerment Center, Inc.**

- **Helping Hands Assistance Program**
- **HomeSafe**
- **Mount Zion Apostolic Faith Church**
- **Palm Beach County Sheriff**
- **School District of Palm Beach County**
- **The Children's Healing Institute**
- **Trinity United Methodist Church**
- **True Fast Outreach Ministries**
- **Urban League of Palm Beach County**
- **West Jupiter Community Group**

To deliver sackpacks directly to children, the Foundation is hosting Back-to-School Celebrations in more than 15 cities across the U.S. in July and August. Thousands more sackpacks are being given to kids through the Office Depot Foundation's continuing partnerships with a number of nonprofit organizations serving children nationally and globally, including the AARP Foundation, the National CASA Association, Feed the Children, Food For The Poor, the Kids In Need Foundation, the National Foundation for Women Legislators and Samaritan's Feet International. For the eighth consecutive year, children of the Navajo Nation in Arizona will receive sackpacks.

Again this year, the Office Depot Foundation has teamed up with Comcast and its [Internet Essentials](#) initiative, the nation's largest and most comprehensive broadband adoption program. Internet Essentials aims to help bridge the digital divide for the millions of students and families who don't have broadband access and may be missing out on important educational resources.

More information about the National Backpack Program can be found on the Office Depot Foundation's FaceBook page at www.facebook.com/officedepotfoundation. To learn more about the Office Depot Foundation and its initiatives, go to www.officedepotfoundation.org/. You can follow the Foundation on Twitter @OfficeDepotFndn; the National Backpack Program's hashtag is #ODFcares. The Foundation is also on Instagram: @officedepotfoundation.

###