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**Note to media:** These backpacks are not available to the general public. They are being donated only to the designated recipients named below.

**OFFICE DEPOT FOUNDATION DONATES 4,800 COOL NEW SACKPACKS  
ON 8/2 TO HELP NEW ORLEANS CHILDREN SUCCEED IN SCHOOL**

*National Backpack Program on Track to Help  
More Than 2.5 Million Kids Since 2001*

**New Orleans, La., Aug. 1, 2011** – If you put together all 2.5 million kids that the [Office Depot Foundation](#) has reached through its National Backpack Program since 2001, they would fill up about 50,000 school buses! That’s a lot of kids – and a lot of success stories.

On **Tuesday, August 2**, the Foundation – the independent charitable giving arm of Office Depot® (NYSE:ODP) – will donate **4,800 cool new sackpacks** in five colorful designs to children served by New Orleans-area non-profit organizations and schools. The Foundation will present the sackpacks, which contain essential school supplies, during a special “Back-to-School Celebration” beginning **at 2:30 p.m. at the Office Depot store located at 3526 Veterans Memorial Highway in Metairie.**

Since Hurricane Katrina, the Office Depot Foundation has donated **more than 43,000 backpacks and sackpacks** for children in New Orleans and Louisiana.

Through the award-winning National Backpack Program, which is now in its 11<sup>th</sup> year, the Office Depot Foundation will help deserving children prepare for school by donating 350,000 sackpacks across the United States and internationally. The newly designed sackpacks, which were specially created for the Foundation, reflect and respond to changes in the ways that children are taking their materials to school.

“In keeping with our mission – Listen Learn Care – we’ve created these fun and exciting sackpacks in response to what kids have told us they like,” says Foundation President Mary Wong. “We are thrilled to donate these very cool sackpacks to more children in a single year than ever before.

“Every year, we have seen our donations bring hope to children whose families might not be able to afford to buy school supplies,” Wong continues. “Parents and teachers alike tell us that we truly are helping children to build self-confidence, boost self-esteem and achieve greater success in the classroom – all as a result of being properly prepared for school.”



Special guests scheduled to participate in the sackpack presentations include Jefferson Parish President John Young; Ray Bolling, representing Mayor Mitch Landrieu; State Sen. Jack Donahue, State Rep. Joseph Lopinto, LaVerne Osiris, regional manager, representing Sen. Mary Landrieu; Melissa E. Stelly, Community Liaison and Interns Coordinator, representing U.S. Senator David Vitter; Bonnie Cook, legislative assistant, representing State Rep. Nita Hutter; and Maura Donahue, vice president of business development, DonahueFavret Contractors, and president, DonahueFavret Contractors Holding Company. Office Depot Foundation President Mary Wong will participate, as well, along with a number of schoolchildren.

Participating school district representatives include Patrick Dobard, Deputy Superintendent, Recovery School District and Recovery School District Charters; Sherry Briscoe, Homeless Liaison, Jefferson Parish Public School System; and Cathy Chase, Director of the Family Resource Center, Orleans Parish School Board.

The non-profit organizations, schools and agencies scheduled to receive sackpacks during the Aug. 2 donation event include:

- Jefferson Parish Public School System
- Recovery School District and Recovery School District Charters
- Orleans Parish School Board
- Teach for America
- Desire Street Ministries
- UNITY of Greater New Orleans/Salvation Army

To provide its sackpacks to children in 2011, the Foundation is hosting 25 “Back-to-School Celebrations” in cities across the U.S. and in Puerto Rico – five of which will include Tony Stewart, driver of the No. 14 Office Depot/Mobil 1 Chevrolet in the NASCAR® Sprint Cup Series™. Thousands of sackpacks also are being donated through Office Depot stores in hundreds of local communities and in collaboration with Office Depot’s Business Solutions Division in select cities.

Thousands more are being given to kids through the Office Depot Foundation’s partnerships with the Tony Stewart Foundation, the National Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Association, Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA), Feed The Children, the Kids In Need Foundation, Zach Bonner’s Little Red Wagon Foundation, the National Foundation for Women Legislators and a new partner, Samaritan’s Feet International, which will distribute sackpacks both nationally and overseas. For the fourth consecutive year, donations will be made to children of the Navajo Nation in Arizona.

The Office Depot Foundation National Backpack Program is being inducted into the PR News 2011 Platinum PR Awards Hall of Fame in September. More information about the program can be found on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/officedepotfoundation](http://www.facebook.com/officedepotfoundation). You can also follow the Foundation on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/officedepotfndn](http://www.twitter.com/officedepotfndn). For information on the Office Depot Foundation and its initiatives, go to [www.officedepotfoundation.org/](http://www.officedepotfoundation.org/).

### **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](http://www.officedepotfoundation.org).

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