

## **Office Depot Foundation Donates 2,000 Sackpacks To Help Children Succeed in School**

The Office Depot Foundation – the independent charitable giving arm of Office Depot – announced the donation to the Gasoline Alley Foundation during a recent “Conversation on Community Renewal” in Springfield hosted by CSRwire. The conversation, which attracted more than a dozen Springfield civic and non-profit leaders, was led by CSRwire CEO Joe Sibilias and Office Depot Foundation President Mary Wong. Earlier this year, Sibilias was a speaker at the Foundation’s Weekend in Boca V Civil Society Leadership Symposium in Boca Raton, Fla.

“When Mary Wong learned about the significant challenges facing Springfield’s kids, she immediately offered to include our community in the Office Depot Foundation’s 2012 National Backpack Program,” said Jack Wysocki, Vice President of Business Development for CSRwire. “The Office Depot Foundation truly cares about helping children succeed. We are excited to be able to offer these great new sackpacks to some of our city’s most deserving children.”

Volunteering at the Back to School Celebration will be Jack Wysocki and Joe Sibilias of CSRwire, and Sabrina Conte of the Office Depot Foundation.

Through the award-winning National Backpack Program, which is now in its 12th year, the Office Depot Foundation plans to help children prepare for school by donating 400,000 sackpacks across the United States and internationally – the most ever in a single year. The sturdy, specially designed sackpacks come in seven different color combinations with kid-friendly graphics. By the end of 2012, Office Depot and the Office Depot Foundation will have helped more than 2.9 million children since the inception of the program in 2001.

“In keeping with our mission – Listen Learn Care – we created these fun and exciting sackpacks in response to what kids have told us they like,” says Foundation President Mary Wong. “Every year, we have seen our donations bring hope to children whose families might not be able to afford to buy school supplies. 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.”

To give sackpacks to children this year, the Foundation is hosting more than 25 “Back-to-School Celebrations” in cities across the U.S. and in Puerto Rico – five of which include Tony Stewart, driver of the No. 14 Office Depot/Mobil 1 Chevrolet in the NASCAR® Sprint Cup Series™. Award-winning actor, comedian and host of “America's Got Talent” Nick Cannon joined the Foundation for donation events in three cities. In addition, thousands of sackpacks are being distributed through Office Depot stores in hundreds of local communities and in collaboration with Office Depot’s Business Solutions Division in select cities.

(Source: CSR Wire)

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