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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 6,000 COOL NEW SACKPACKS  
TO HELP LOS ANGELES-AREA CHILDREN SUCCEED IN SCHOOL**

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

**Los Angeles, Calif., August 30, 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 Wednesday, August 31, the Foundation – the independent charitable giving arm of Office Depot® (NYSE:ODP) – will donate 6,000 cool new backpacks in five colorful designs to children served by area non-profit organizations and schools. The Foundation will present the backpacks, which contain essential school supplies, during a special “Back-to-School Celebration” beginning at 2:00 p.m. at the Office Depot store located at 2020 S. Figueroa Street in Los Angeles.

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 backpacks across the United States and internationally. The newly designed backpacks, 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 backpacks in response to what kids have told us they like,” says Foundation President Mary Wong. “We are thrilled to donate these very cool backpacks 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 backpack presentations include Brenda Vargas, field deputy for Congressman Xavier Becerra; Miguel Martinez, senior field representative for Assembly Speaker John A. Perez; Springsong Cooper, assistant legislative deputy for County Supervisor Gloria Molina; Celina Luna, community advocate from the office of District 15 Council Member Janice Hahn; David Eads, senior vice president and chief operating officer of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of



Commerce; and Alma Salazar, vice president of education and workforce development for the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce. Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa also will send a representative to receive a donation of 1,500 backpacks.

The non-profit organizations, schools and agencies scheduled to receive backpacks during the August 31 donation event include:

- Los Angeles Unified School District Homeless Education Program
- Building Futures Inc.
- Camino Nuevo Charter Academy
- Central City Neighborhood Partners
- The Children’s Law Center of Los Angeles
- Communities In Schools Los Angeles West
- Community Outreach and Opportunity Programs
- Mothers in Action
- Para Los Ninos
- Unification of Disabled Latin Americans
- Wilson Elementary School
- Women Like Us Hollywood

To provide its backpacks 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 backpacks 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 backpacks 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 National Backpack Program can be found on the Office Depot Foundation’s Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/officedepotfoundation](http://www.facebook.com/officedepotfoundation). For information on the Office Depot Foundation and its initiatives, go to [www.officedepotfoundation.org/](http://www.officedepotfoundation.org/). You can also follow the Foundation on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/officedepotfndn](http://www.twitter.com/officedepotfndn).

### **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).

