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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 TO DONATE 4000 NEW SACKPACKS
TO HELP TAMPA-AREA CHILDREN PREPARE FOR SCHOOL**

National Backpack Program Has Made a Difference to 3.3 Million Kids

TAMPA, FL, AUGUST 7, 2014 – Most children look forward to the beginning of the new school year. But for those in families where money is tight, this can be a challenging time.

To help deserving children like these start school on the right foot, the [Office Depot Foundation](#) is preparing to donate 4000 colorful new backpacks containing essential school supplies to nonprofit organizations, schools and agencies in the Tampa area. The Foundation – the independent charitable giving arm of Office Depot® (NYSE:ODP) – will make the donations during a special Back-to-School Celebration beginning at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 7 (8/7) at the Office Depot store located at 211 N Dale Mabry Hwy in Tampa.

In 2014, the Foundation will donate 350,000 backpacks to children in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and a number of other countries through its National Backpack Program, which is now in its 14th year. During the past three years alone, this award-winning initiative has made a difference to more than 13,000 Tampa-area kids.

By the end of this year, Office Depot and the Office Depot Foundation will have given away more than 3.3 million backpacks and sackpacks since the National Backpack Program began in 2001.

“Each and every year, the smiles on the faces of the children who receive our sackpacks and school supplies warm our hearts,” says Office Depot Foundation President Mary Wong. “We are so proud to know that we will have made a difference to 3.3 million kids – and grateful to Office Depot and our many supporters for giving us the opportunity to continue this program for its 14th year.”

The nonprofit organizations, schools and agencies scheduled to receive sackpacks on August 7 include:

- **Hillsborough County Public Schools**
- **Operation Productive Endeavor**
- **The Children’s Home**



- **Eckerd Community Alternatives**
- **YWCA of Tampa Bay**

Special guests expected to participate include:

- **Sandra L. Murman, Hillsborough County Commissioner**
- **Bob Rohrlack, Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce**

Also scheduled to participate are representatives from the **Kids In Need Foundation**, one of the Office Depot Foundation's national nonprofit partners.

The specially designed backpacks come in seven bright and colorful designs that are new for 2014. Each one includes a zippered pouch containing a pen, pencil, pencil sharpener, eraser, six-inch ruler and four crayons. The backpacks do not have any Office Depot Foundation or Office Depot logos or markings.

To deliver backpacks directly to children, the Foundation is hosting Back-to-School Celebrations in more than 35 cities across the U.S. and in Puerto Rico in July and August. Four of these backpack donation events – in Los Angeles, Fort Lauderdale, San Diego and New York City – are featuring appearances by award-winning actor, comedian and host of “America’s Got Talent” Nick Cannon.

Thousands of backpacks are being given to kids through the Office Depot Foundation's continuing partnerships with nine nonprofit organizations serving children nationally and internationally. The Foundation is collaborating with the AARP Experience Corps, Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA), the National Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Association, Feed The Children, Food For The Poor, the Kids In Need Foundation, the National Foundation for Women Legislators, Operation Homefront and Samaritan's Feet International.

Thousands more are being donated through Office Depot and OfficeMax stores in hundreds of local communities and in partnership with Office Depot's Business Solutions Division in select cities. For the seventh consecutive year, children of the Navajo Nation in Arizona will receive backpacks.

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 #ODFcures. The Foundation is also on Instagram: @officedepotfoundation.

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 give children tools to succeed in school and in life; build the capacity of nonprofit organizations through collaboration and innovation; and help communities prepare for disasters, as well as recovering and rebuilding afterwards. For more information, visit www.officedepotfoundation.org.

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