



The Backpack Project, Inc. is a nonprofit organization devoted to addressing the educational supply needs of area children by providing school supplies and mentoring programs to children in underserved communities in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. Since its founding in June 2009, the organization has equipped more than 2,500 students with new backpacks and supplies for their first day of school.

“Education provides the knowledge, values and skills that form the foundation for lifelong learning and professional success.” — United Nation Children’s Fund

One of the most effective means of ending generational cycles of poverty, a quality basic education does more than simply equip children with the knowledge and skills necessary to take an active role in the social, economic and political decision-making process; it creates a continuous cycle of opportunity, creating educated adults who are more likely to ensure that their children start school on time and are ready to learn.

Unfortunately, many families are unable to afford the basic school necessities for their children. The Backpack Project, Inc. was formed to address this fundamental need by providing backpacks to children of low income families in the DC area. In addition to ensuring every child is fully equipped and ready to learn on the first day of school, the backpacks provide hope, encouragement, and confidence to students.

HOW IT WORKS

At the beginning of each school year, the organization partners schools or organizations in underserved communities to provide school supplies to students in need. Each backpack contains a school uniform (shirt and pants/skirt) and all required grade school supplies. Our program is designed to encourage a continuation of reading and writing outside of the classroom setting. For this, an age-appropriate reading book* and a writing journal are included in every backpack.

In addition to receiving backpacks and school supplies, students at partnering schools may also take advantage of a biweekly journaling workshop and a year-long mentoring program (Backpack Buddies) that matches an adult volunteer (mentor) with a student at the school.

BACKPACK CONTENTS

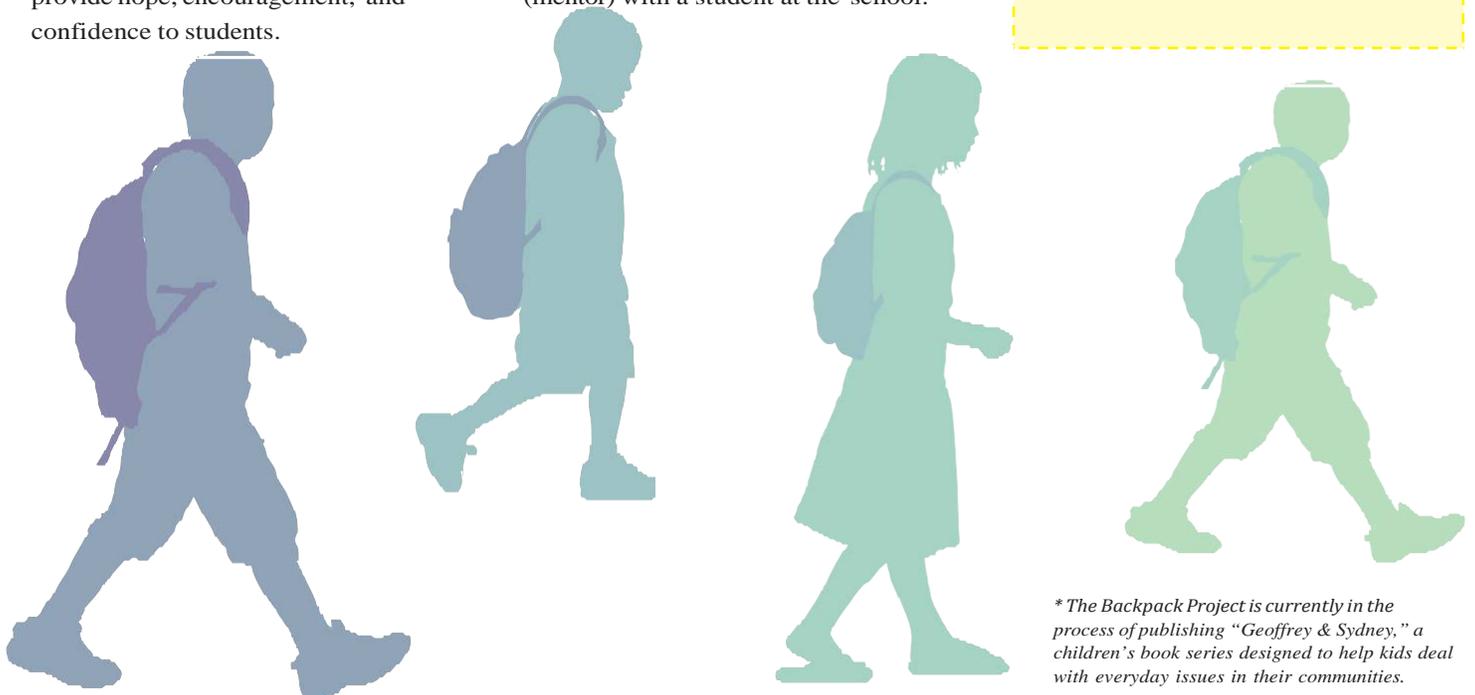
Each backpack contains the following items:

- A school uniform (*shirt and pants/skirt*)
- All required grade school supplies
- One age-appropriate reading book*
- The Backpack Project, Inc. Writing Journal

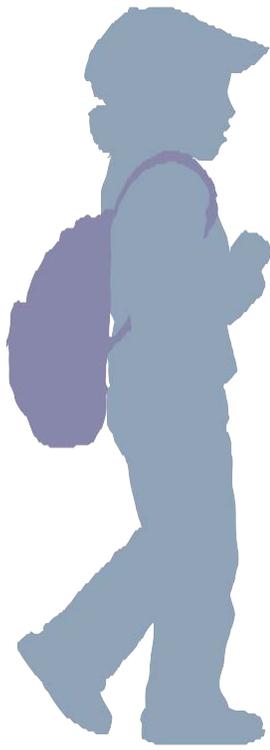
PARTNER SCHOOLS

Since 2009, The Backpack Project, Inc. has provided school supplies, journaling workshops, and/or mentoring programs to students at the following schools and organizations:

- Garrison Elementary School
- Ketcham Elementary School
- Orr Elementary School
- Patterson Elementary School
- Payne Elementary School
- St. Anthony’s Catholic School
- THC (Transitional Housing Corp)



**The Backpack Project is currently in the process of publishing “Geoffrey & Sydney,” a children’s book series designed to help kids deal with everyday issues in their communities.*



“ Our students have benefitted so much from The Backpack Project. Not only did the organization provide backpacks filled with supplies, but it also ensured that they were able to start school with brand new uniforms. That was an amazing gesture. We are so thankful for this giving and selfless organization. ”

— Michelle N. Edwards, Principal, Orr Elementary School

“ I like Journaling Class because it makes me feel free, creative, and productive. ”

— Nyah Anderson, 5th Grade Student, Orr Elementary School

“ I like Journaling Class because I do fun activities and feel like I’m getting to spend time with some of my friends that I don’t see often. And, I just like writing. ”

— Khalia Grant, 4th Grade Student, Orr Elementary School

“ Working with The Backpack Project, Inc. has given me the opportunity to help others, which has also helped me. There is no better feeling than knowing you’ve made a positive impact on another person’s life – and it feels good to be a part of something bigger than myself. ”

— Shauna Palmer, Volunteer, The Backpack Project, Inc.

HOW YOU CAN HELP



Buy a Backpack – for a \$50 donation, you can help prepare a child for his or her first day of school, thus preparing them for educational success.



Donate Supplies – if you prefer to donate supplies in lieu of money, we need a number of items, including binders, folders, pens, pencils, markers, rulers, scissors, and of course, backpacks! For a full list of school supplies, see sidebar.



Volunteer Time – we’re always looking for individuals who can help with tasks such as event planning, marketing, data entry, accounting, fundraising, petitioning, etc. as well as – you guessed it – assembling backpacks!



Become a Backpack Buddy Mentor – take your mentees on group field trips to recreational, educational, cultural, and holiday events (breakfast, lunch and transportation provided) and participate in our annual gift giving program. One year commitment required.



Attend an Event – join us as we host a variety of functions throughout the year, including shopping parties, writing workshops, toy drives, etc. For a full list of upcoming events, visit www.thebackpackprojectinc.org.



Spread the Word – as a community grassroots organization, we thrive on support from individuals like you. Join us on facebook, follow us on twitter, visit our website, and most importantly, share our mission with your friends and family!

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

- Backpack
- Binder
- Marble composition books
- Rule-lined paper
- Crayons
- Colored pencils
- Colored markers
- Black pens
- Blue pens
- Scissors
- Dividers
- Folders (2-pocket)
- Pencils
- Rulers (12” metric)

For more information, please contact The Backpack Project, Inc.’s Founder Cassandra Jackson at thebackpackp@gmail.com or 202.603.5336 or visit: www.thebackpackprojectinc.org.

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