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**OFFICE DEPOT DONATES 6,000 BACKPACKS TO KIDS IN NEED FOUNDATION AS PART OF ITS NATIONAL BACKPACK PROGRAM**

*Office Depot Celebrates Milestone of One Million Backpacks Donated Since Program's Inception*

**Dayton, OH, August 22, 2006** – The SHOPA Kids In Need Foundation, the only national organization that provides free school supplies to children in need, is the recipient of 6,000 backpacks with basic school supplies from Office Depot (NYSE:ODP), a leading global provider of office products and services. The backpacks were donated as part of Office Depot's National Backpack Program that is taking place across the country during this back-to-school season. The Kids In Need Foundation will distribute the backpacks to schools and children in five cities through its national network of Resource Centers.

Since the inception of its signature in-kind program in 2001, Office Depot has donated more than one million backpacks to needy children across the country.

"The Backpack Program is one of the several significant ways Office Depot supports our mission of ensuring that children have the school supplies they need to succeed in school," said Kathy Spencer, executive director of the Kids In Need Foundation. "They understand the impact having school supplies makes on a child's daily life and on his or her future."

"We are very proud to lend our support to the SHOPA Kids In Need Foundation through Office Depot's National Backpack program," said Chuck Rubin, president of North American retail for Office Depot. "Kids In Need is a wonderful partner that helps to make a meaningful difference in the lives of so many children nationwide."

According to Rubin, Office Depot will donate more than 300,000 backpacks containing basic school supplies to underprivileged and "at-risk" children through national organizations, area non-profit organizations and Title One schools - just in time for kids heading back-to-school. In addition to the backpacks donated to the Kids In Need Foundation, all of Office Depot's more than 1,000 retail stores across the country are taking part in distributing backpacks to organizations and needy children in their respective communities.

**About the SHOPA Kids In Need Foundation**

SHOPA Kids In Need Foundation is a national non-profit organization providing school supplies to impoverished children and under-funded teachers. A 501(c)(3) charitable organization founded in 1995 by the School, Home, & Office Products Association (SHOPA), the Foundation's mission is to recognize, promote, and support initiatives that foster educational excellence. The National Network of Kids in Need Resource Centers

includes 21 facilities that allow teachers from low-income schools to obtain free school supplies for their students. In addition, Kids In Need Teacher Grants provide K-12 educators with funding to provide innovative learning opportunities for students. The Kids in Need Foundation has distributed more than \$200 million in school supplies since its founding, directly benefiting 1.3 million students and 75,000 teachers annually, and has awarded more than \$660,000 in grants to teachers. For more information, visit [www.kidsinneed.net](http://www.kidsinneed.net).

#### **About SHOPA**

SHOPA, founded in 1991, is a nonprofit trade association representing nearly 800 manufacturers, manufacturer representatives, retailers, wholesalers, distributors, commercial/contract stationers, and service companies involved in the production, distribution, and sale of school supplies and office products. The Association also produces SBTS (SHOPA Buyer-to-Seller) Marketplace events, which facilitate pre-scheduled and one-on-one meetings. SHOPA, in cooperation with Messe Frankfurt and PROPAPER, is producing Paperworld USA in November, the international trade event for the school and office products industry. For more information, visit [www.shopa.org](http://www.shopa.org).

#### **About Office Depot**

Office Depot provides more office products and services to more customers in more countries than any other company.

Incorporated in 1986 and headquartered in Delray Beach, Fla., Office Depot has annual sales of nearly \$15 billion, and employs approximately 50,000 associates around the world. Currently, the Company sells to customers in 33 countries, and has affiliates in another five.

Office Depot is a leader in every distribution channel -- from retail stores and contract delivery to catalogs and e-commerce. As of July 1, 2006, Office Depot had 1,071 retail stores in North America and another 322 stores, either company-owned, licensed or franchised, in other parts of the world. Office Depot serves a wide range of customers through a dedicated sales force, telephone account managers, direct mail offerings, and multiple web sites. With over \$3.8 billion in online sales, the Company is also one of the world's largest e-commerce retailers.

Office Depot's common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol ODP and is included in the S&P 500 Index. Additional press information can be found at: <http://mediarelations.officedepot.com>

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