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June 9, 2015

Dear Friends,

The summer has just started and here we are already looking toward the upcoming school year. It will be here before we know it. For many years now, you all have helped make the Back-to-School event a hugely successful one for us. Last year, we were able to give out an incredible 229 backpacks & supplies. This year, Friends In Deed's goal is to collect and distribute between 230-250 backpacks & school supplies to our Food Pantry's school-aged children, from elementary through high school.

For so many of our families, the extra expense the new school year brings can really be stressful and challenging for them. It is an expense that is hard to plan for, when your monthly income is already stretched as far as it can go. And for the kids, starting the school year off on a positive note is important and can shape their whole year. By having a backpack and all the supplies, they are able to feel like all of their classmates and can focus on learning, rather than what they don't have. This event brings happiness and smiles to our young students and it alleviates some of the stress that extra expenses bring to their parents.

To make the Back-To-School event a successful one again, we need the help of our friends in our interfaith community. As groups, individuals, congregations or businesses, or anyone else who wants to make sure that the new school year gets started on the right foot for our young students, we welcome your help.

Backpacks should be sturdy enough to handle the rigors a student goes through daily, especially for our high school students. We ask that you please avoid bringing backpacks that are red and/or blue in color. We also need school supplies to fill the backpacks and have compiled a list of recommended supplies for the Pasadena-Alhambra area schools. It is included below for your shopping convenience.

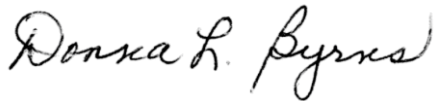
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Thank you for helping us to assure that the children, in our community, have a great start in school this fall.

In service and with gratitude,



Donna Byrns
Executive Director



Doing together what we cannot do alone

Friends In Deed is a DBA of the Ecumenical Council of Pasadena Area Congregations,
a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.
Tax ID: 95-1644608. We respect your privacy.

Back to School Supply List 2015-2016

3 Ring Binders - 1" - 3" (Prefer with Clear View pocket on front)
Tab Dividers for Binders
College ruled notebook paper
Spiral notebooks
Copy paper (for printing on computer)
Composition Notebooks, hardcover
Pens; red, blue and black
Pencils, including #2 yellow 6-sided for younger grades; mechanical pencils Erasers
Pencil-top Erasers
Zipper pouch for pens and pencils (3 holed to go in binders)
Dry Erase Markers
Colored Markers (NO Sharpies or Permanent Markers)
Highlighters, all colors
Colored Pencils
Sharpener for colored pencils (must hold shavings)
24 Colors Crayons (prefer Crayola Brand)

2 Pocket Folders (prefer poly folders)
Student scissors (such as Fiskar)
Rulers (metric & customary)
3" x 5" index cards
Glue Sticks

As you can see, school start-up is an expensive proposition for low income families.
Thank you for easing that burden and assuring that all students get an equal start on
their critical journey of education.