



For Immediate Release – August 3, 2011

CRS-Food Bank Stuff a Backpack Program Begins

Lynden Park Mall, Brant United Way and Staples have partnered together again this year with Community Resource Service to offer children backpacks and school supplies for the first day of school.

It is the 8th year for the Stuff a Backpack program which provides backpacks and school supplies to children whose families use CRS - Food Bank Services.

This program continues to be needed year after year, as more and more families are using Food Bank services. We are extremely grateful for the generosity and support of our partners; Lynden Park Mall, its tenants, Brant United Way, Staples and their customers, First Student Canada as well as the community. Lynden Park Mall and Brant United Way share the costs to purchase the backpacks for the program operated by CRS – Food Bank & Distribution. Staples are partnering with First Student who will park a school bus outside the store asking customers for monetary donations to purchase school supplies to help fill the bus in support of the “Stuff a Backpack” program as well as they will have pre made school supply packages available for customers to purchase to help fill the bus. Lynden Park Mall will also be accepting donations in bins located throughout the mall for the "Stuff A Backpack" program from now until August 14th.

Helping families who cannot afford new items for their children and who are already using the food bank, this extra help the program can provide will help ensure that children have a positive start to their school year.”

Children can be registered for the program when their families use CRS - Food Bank Emergency Food Service. Families can register a maximum of 2 children per family. Registration for the program began on July 4th and has already reached full capacity with all 250 available spaces filled

Locally, 37% of those benefiting from Food Bank services are children. An average of 1,250 households use the Brantford Food Bank each month.

Children are our most vulnerable clientele. This program gives us a chance to make that first day of school a bit brighter for children going to school in the fall as well as helps lessen the stress placed on families this time of year.

Local businesses and companies are also encouraged to run school supply drives in their offices.

Individual or business donations can be dropped off at the offices of CRS Food Bank and Distribution at 1100 Clarence Street until August 19th. Lynden Park Mall will be accepting donations for the "Stuff A Backpack" program until August 14th. Volunteers from Medix School will be on hand at the mall, August 12th, 13th, and 14th to accept donations.

Backpacks and school supplies will be given out during the last week of August to those who have registered.

For More Information Please Call:

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I believe in my community

