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## **Friends In Deed**

# **2025-2026 Back-to-School Backpack & School Supply Drive**

Dear Friends,

The current school year is wrapping up and we hope it was a good one for the students in our community. While the students and their families are thinking about how they are going to be spending their summer, we are already thinking about the upcoming school year. Our annual “Back-To-School” event is our most important Food Pantry event of the year. Making sure that the young students in our community can start the year on an equal footing with their classmates is critical.

Financial challenges are not new to any of us and they come in different shapes and sizes. For many, we are able to weather these challenges, but for many of our FID families these challenges can be hard to overcome. Financial challenges are a major hurdle for our families and this makes it even more difficult for families for big events, like the start of a new school year. This is why we consider our annual “Back-To-School” event such an important one.

Last year, we were able to distribute over 400 backpacks and school supply bags to the students in our ever growing community. We were able to do this because of all of you donating backpacks, supplies, kits, and your time. It was a huge success and everyone that came for a backpack and school supplies, received them.

This year we are planning on distributing another 400 backpacks and supply bags. Your participation is critical to our success. Our motto is “doing together what we cannot do alone” and it is so true, especially as we help prepare the students in our community for the upcoming school year. We hope that you will join us in this effort!

On two consecutive Saturdays, August 2 & 9, we will be distributing backpacks and supplies to families in our community. We ask you to help us by dropping off donations to the Friends In Deed house, located at 444 E. Washington Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91104 (on the corner of Washington Blvd. and Los Robles Ave.).

**Donations will be accepted starting Saturday, July 5. Please bring donations on Thursday afternoons, between 1:30p and 4:00p, and on Fridays and Saturdays, between 9:00a and 3:00p. *We would like all school supply donations by Friday, July 25, and all backpack donations by Friday, August 1.***

If you are unable to bring the donations on one of the above days, please reach out to Tim, [timn@friendsindeedpas.org](mailto:timn@friendsindeedpas.org), Eva, [evan@friendsindeedpas.org](mailto:evan@friendsindeedpas.org), or Kristina, [kristinam@friendsindeedpas.org](mailto:kristinam@friendsindeedpas.org) via email or give them a call at 626-797-6072 to arrange a drop-off outside the days above

We have also set up an Amazon “FID School Supply Drive Wish List” if you prefer to order online and have the backpacks and supplies sent directly to Friends In Deed. ***Please click on the following link:*** <https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3DGFRX5F9MXJW>

If you would like to support this event, here are some things to consider:

1. **Please avoid backpacks that are all red or all blue. This is very important to our schools.**
2. Backpacks should be sturdy enough to handle the rigors of a student's day and the tremendous supply of books students heft around, especially high school students.
3. The school supplies needed are recommended by the Pasadena/Altadena area schools and the list is included below.
4. School supplies must be delivered to Friends In Deed, by Friday, July 25, 2025, and backpacks by Friday, August 1, 2025.

Thank you for helping us ensure that the students in our community have a great start to the upcoming school year.

In service and with gratitude,



Rabbi Joshua Levine Grater  
Executive Director



Tim Nistler  
Director of The Food Pantry

 **Doing together what we cannot do alone**

Friends In Deed is a DBA of The FID Group, formerly Ecumenical Council of Pasadena Area Congregations, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.  
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