



NORTH + AMERICA

# BACK TO SCHOOL

## THE NEED

Imagine missing school because you don't have a backpack or even a pair of shoes. For many children experiencing homelessness and poverty in America, they don't need to imagine. They are forced to skip school, unable to participate in sports and playground activities, and face health risks because of inadequate shoes, food, or school supplies.

## HOW TO DO IT:

**This program is a great way for your parish to help out children in need in your own city.**

- Appoint someone from the church to lead the project. Have them contact FOCUS with how many backpacks you think your parish can fill and donate local school children.
- FOCUS will send you the backpacks you ordered (i.e. 25, 50, 100, 200). In each backpack are two items:
  1. A packing list of school supplies for Elementary, Middle, or High School students.
  2. A preaddressed envelope to FOCUS to send in the cost of the bag. **We ask for a \$10 to cover each bag.**
- Have parishioners take the backpacks home, and fill them with the supplies on packing list. Parishioners will then bring the full bags back to church. The project leader will mail the \$10.00 donation for each backpack in the preaddressed envelope provided.
- FOCUS works with school districts all over the country. We will connect the project leader with a local school worker who works directly with disadvantaged children. Once a time and location has been set, the project leader will be responsible to collect all the bags and take them to the school. Thank you for working for the children in your community!

Contact FOCUS at:  
**[www.focusnorthamerica.org](http://www.focusnorthamerica.org)**  
**1-866-267-3083**  
**[info@focusna.org](mailto:info@focusna.org)**



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# SUGGESTED TIMELINE

## **May 20**

FOCUS and parishes establish the pledged number of backpacks for children in need for the upcoming school year.

## **June 1**

FOCUS mails parishes pledged number of backpacks and informs parish to what school they will be donating the backpacks. Each backpack will have a list for a specific grade range (elementary, middle, or high school) and a preaddressed envelope to mail \$10.00 check to FOCUS to cover the cost of the backpack.

## **July 15**

Parish receives backpacks and distributes to backpack sponsors—individuals, families, groups, etc.—at the parish.

Backpacks filled with grade appropriate supplies are returned to parish and the local FOCUS liaison.

All final checks are mailed to FOCUS North America to cover the cost of the backpack in preaddressed envelope also included within backpacks.

## **August 15**

Backpacks dropped off with school contact to be distributed to students for the upcoming school year.

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