

# April 2021 - Newsletter

*The mission of Back 2 School Illinois is to create and support educational opportunities that enrich the lives of Illinois children.*



Every \$19 donation allows us to provide one more underserved child with their own Back 2 School supplies kit.

[Donate Today !](#)

## Volunteer With Us So Many Ways to Get Involved

We realize that without the work of many volunteers and the countless hours of their assistance, our impact would not have nearly the scope it does. Volunteers make a difference! Here are a few ways you can get involved:



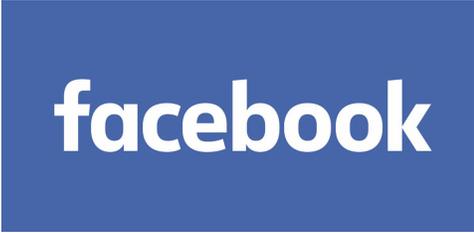
**NOTES OF INSPIRATION:** You can write "Notes of Inspiration" to encourage young students. Each Back 2 School kit has a creative, handwritten note included. With crayons, colored pencils, or stickers, you can become an artist with a short, encouraging note. Just click above to sign up and we will send blank notes to your house for you to write and send back to us. We also have a corporate program available for companies.

**AMAZONSMILE:** If you're a shopper on Amazon, did you know that by a simple switch to AmazonSmile we can get a donation every time you make a purchase? It's simple to switch, and your



shopping experience and pricing remain the same. Make the switch today by clicking on your AmazonSmile account and picking Back 2 School Illinois as your charity of choice.

**FACEBOOK FUNDRAISER:** Are you a Facebook user? How about adding to your birthday festivities by hosting a Facebook Birthday Fundraiser for us! If you need assistance to set this up, just look for the “Fundraising” option on the sidebar of your page and follow the simple prompts, or we will be happy to assist you — don’t hesitate to contact: [StevenSartin@b2si.org](mailto:StevenSartin@b2si.org). It’s a great way to celebrate and do something to make sure kids in need get school supplies.



[MORE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES](#)

## Volunteer Spotlight

### Meet Super Volunteer – Barbara McCarthy



From time to time, we like to showcase and introduce our Super Volunteers. These are individuals we want to highlight for their extraordinary dedication to our organization.

Meet Super Volunteer Barbara McCarthy. Barbara came to us as a volunteer in the midst of the pandemic. She began volunteering at our first in-house Build-A-Kit event and continued to come every month to assist in assembling kits and writing “Notes of Inspiration.” Soon after starting to work with us, Barbara’s role expanded. She spearheaded our efforts to increase communication with our community partners and helped us secure letters, cards, and photos that we share with you, our stakeholders. More recently, she connected us with the Crate & Barrel store at Old Orchard in Skokie. As a result, we are embarking on a series of initiatives with

their staff to help raise funds and awareness.

We are so appreciative of Barbara's commitment, assistance, and ongoing support that she gives us. If you volunteer with us this year, there's a good chance you'll get to meet her or see her impact on our organization.

## Apply for our "Win School Supplies" Contest Launches on May 1

One of our annual traditions is to award two deserving Chicago schools with free school supplies for every student enrolled. Our "Win School Supplies for an Entire School" contest, which launches May 1, is open to any Chicago school with students from pre-kindergarten through high school. Anyone can nominate a school, from students and teachers to parents and community members.

If you know of a school in need of supplies, download the application and apply today. The two winning schools will be selected this summer and we will show up on the first week of classes in a surprise presentation and distribute our signature Back 2 School kits to every student.

Applications must be postmarked by August 1, 2021.



## Christopher House Receives School Supply Kits Learn. Dream. Achieve

The mission of Christopher House is to provide a high-quality education for students, paired with comprehensive support services for their families. Just like Back 2 School, Christopher House works to help kids achieve better educational opportunities and a brighter future.

We were recently able to bring 100 kits to the James & Jean Stewart Campus, in Chicago's Cragin neighborhood, which houses a preschool, an elementary school, and an after-school program. We feel so lucky to have been able to connect with Laura Pietrini, a Christopher House teacher, to deliver our kits and learn more

about this wonderful organization.



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