

June 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 !](#)

Get Your Gala On

Mark your calendar. We are having a Gala!



Get Your Gala On.

Now that we are able to come back together, come join us for a fun-filled evening and one that will be impactful too!

Pencil us in, as you won't want to miss our Gala at [Galleria Marchetti](#) on Thursday evening, September 23. It will be an amazing time that includes a cocktail reception, silent auction, wine pull, dinner buffet, dessert bar, live music, after-party, and an open bar throughout the evening. The program this year will be emceed by Wayne Johnson. Wayne is the winner of the Today Show's "Domestic Diva" contest and has been a contributor for NBC 5 Chicago, "Good Morning America" and "Windy City Live."

Save the date and buy your ticket
TODAY!

B2SI is on the Move Our offices have to Wintrust Bank

That's right... Pack 'em up and move 'em out! This past month we did just that by moving our office to [Wintrust Bank](#). Their sponsorship and support have blessed us with a beautiful space on the second floor of their North Center branch, located at 1946 Irving Park Road near the intersection of Lincoln and Damen in Chicago. Our entire B2SI staff is so grateful for the warm welcome and amazing team and management of Wintrust Bank.

If you're ever in the area, come on into the bank and say "Hello!"

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College Scholarship Awarded

Four promising rising freshmen receive a gift to help start college

This year was especially exciting for Alejandro Sanchez, Kevin Serrano, Omarion Holmes and Unika Valentine as they recently learned they each were a recipient of one of our 2021 College Scholarships. While all of the applicants were very accomplished, these four in particular were most deserving in part because of their powerful shared essays.



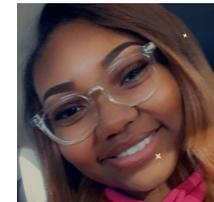
Alejandro Sanchez will be attending Swarthmore College this coming fall and dreams of becoming a biologist and science researcher. He's hoping to use his education to encourage people and organizations to practice sustainability.

Kevin Serrano will be attending DePaul University this coming fall and plans to study economics. His aspirations are to move into the study of law and work in transitional law, centering his practice around small firms.



Omarion Holmes will be attending Morehouse College this coming fall and will be the first-generation male student from his family to attend college. He has many aspirations and will determine his particular area of studies during his first year of college.

Unika Valentine will be attending Grand Valley State University this coming fall. As an avid reader and writer, Unika plans to hone her skills in literature. Her family has had financial struggles, yet she desires to continue on her quest for knowledge and aspire for greatness even in a financially tight situation. She is very proud to be the first person in her family to attend college.



We wish all four of these students continued success as they go off to college and realize their dreams.

So Much Happening this Summer

Build-A-Kits, Buy-A-Kits, Distributions and more,
oh my!

We are looking forward to great things this summer. Many of our long-time corporate partners, along with some new ones, have committed to hosting their own [Build-A-Kit](#) events or have opted to participate in our [Buy-A-Kit](#) program, while others are opting to be event sponsors or write "[Notes of Inspiration](#)", which go into all our kits.

Here is a very brief taste of what we have going on over the summer:

- August 11 – [Chicagoland Build-A-Kit and Distribution Event](#)

This day-long event at the Rauner Family YMCA in Chicago includes the year's biggest Build-A-Kit endeavor, assembling hundreds of school supply kits involving dozens of [volunteers](#), and a large distribution of thousands of our Back 2 School kits to Chicagoland YMCAs and other Chicago community partners. Major support for this event is courtesy of Office Depot and Whole Foods.



- August 14 – [University of Illinois Build-A-Kit and Distribution Event](#)

Our second annual Build-A-Kit event, a partnership with the University of Illinois, will take place at the Don Moyers Boys & Girls Club in Champaign. All Back 2 School kits will be assembled by [volunteers](#) and then distributed to low-income families in central Illinois. Major funding for this event is provided by CA Ventures.



Join us through support, volunteering or hosting your own Build-A-Kit.

Contest, Contest - Enter to Win

Nominate Teachers & Schools to Win Big This Fall

Our [“We Appreciate Teachers Contest”](#) is a program to acknowledge teachers for their hard work by offering them a chance to win a gift basket loaded with goodies for them, a visit to a high-end salon in downtown Chicago and Back 2 School kits for their classroom. Nominations can be placed through the B2SI website. Anyone

can submit an application on behalf of a teacher, including the teacher himself/herself. The teacher must be currently employed by a school in Illinois. Ten teachers' names will be drawn from all entries.

Our [“Win School Supplies for an Entire School”](#) contest awards two Chicago schools with Back 2 School kits for each and every enrolled student. Anyone can nominate a school and the kits will be awarded the first week of school. It’s always a surprise to the students, so you can imagine the excitement when they are all together and hear the news.

Time is limited so please follow the links above and enter your nominations today. There are no limitations on how many schools or teachers you can nominate.



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