

# October 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 !](#)

## Gala 2021, a Night to Remember

Thank you to all who attended





Thank you to everyone who joined us at our 2021 Gala on September 23. It was a very special evening, no question about it. Guests enjoyed the new format including a dinner buffet, open bar, silent auction, dessert bar, and after-party with live music. The excitement of coming together and helping kids made for an electric evening.

For those who were unable to attend, our short program opened with a moving video— [check it out](#)—and ended with a beautiful story from one of the teachers who had recently won Back 2 School kits for her school as part of our “Win School Supplies for an Entire School” contest. Her story and how the kits were making an impact on the student body was both emotional and inspiring. Wayne Johnson, our emcee for the Gala, was a huge hit with our guests and did a wonderful job of reminding everyone of the critical work and impact of our organization.

A big THANK YOU also goes out to the tireless efforts and workings of the Gala Committee who put so much time, love, and energy into making the evening a huge success. We are also thankful to all of you who couldn't make it but still sent in a donation to support our efforts. Those funds will go a long way to help many kids, their families, and their teachers.

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## One Women, Over a Thousand Notes Written and Counting

Robin Anderson creates beautiful notes to inspire our kids

Month after month, Robin clicks our website's “Notes of Inspiration” link, and has the blank cards sent right to her home. Over the past few months she has written

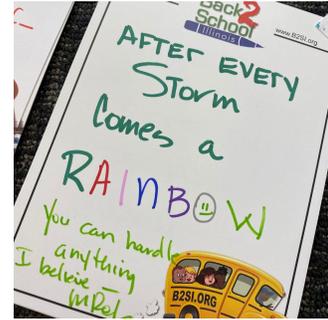
over 1,500, (that's not a typo!) inspirational notes with encouraging quotes, which will be included in our Back 2 School Illinois kit boxes.

Robin first heard about our "Notes of Inspiration" program through Allstate when she and a group of her colleagues joined us for a virtual event and the opportunity to give back.

Don't think by any means that Robin is finished writing. She signed her last email to us saying "Please send my usual package and I will continue to write 😊."

Learn how you can follow Robin's lead in creating these notes to inspire kids.

Send me "Notes of Inspiration"



## Three School Surprised with School Supplies

'Win School Supplies' contest winners recognized



Dawes Elementary School



Douglas Taylor Elementary



Polaris Charter Academy

Not one, not two, but three schools were surprised with Back 2 School kits for every single student in their student body this past month. Yes, over the past few months we received nominations from all over the state for our "Win School Supplies for an Entire School" contest. People told us why a particular school deserved to win. Of course, ALL kids deserve to have school supplies, but we needed to narrow it to three schools.

Dawes Elementary in Marquette Park, Douglas Taylor Elementary in Calumet Heights, and Polaris Charter Academy in Humboldt Park were selected as the winning schools. Teachers and kids alike were so excited and surprised when we showed up. When we arrived, each school held a different type of gathering. One handled their distribution outside and included a marching band. At another school, we were treated to a tour by students and a pep rally along with a visit to a classroom of first graders. At another, they tied in our visit with a big assembly and celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. There, we received dozens and dozens of thank-you cards, letters, banners, and T-shirts.

We wish all of you could have joined us so you could see firsthand just what your support means. Inspiring doesn't begin to capture how meaningful it was to experience these three celebrations and see just how appreciative the kids and teachers were to receive our Back 2 School kits.

## The LGBT Community is Coming Together to Help Kids

LGBT Build-A-Kit is October 22nd



LGBT Build-A-Kit with Back 2 School Illinois

**YOUR BUSINESS VOICE FOR 25 YEARS**  
**LG  
BT** Chamber of Commerce Illinois

**Back<sup>2</sup>  
School**  
Illinois

**CENTER  
ON 3656 N.  
HALSTED**

Learn more about the LGBT Build-A-Kit event being held at the Center on Halsted on October 22. Join in to help underprivileged kids receive the school supplies they need at [B2SI.org](http://B2SI.org).

The banner features three logos: the LGBT Chamber of Commerce Illinois logo with a rainbow arc, the Back 2 School Illinois logo with a red '2' and a blue pencil, and the Center on Halsted logo. Below the logos is a photograph of several people working at tables, assembling school supply kits. The entire banner is framed with a rainbow border.

Back 2 School Illinois, in partnership with the LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois, are coming together in one big, all-day event at the Center on Halsted on Friday, October 22. Individual teams and employee resource groups from major companies have organized and raised funds to make this happen. Volunteers from the teams and sponsors will be coming together that day to sort and assemble Back 2 School kits. After all the "Notes of Inspiration" are written and the last kit box is filled, everyone volunteering will enjoy a cocktail reception and celebrate a good day's work that will help kids across the Chicagoland area get much-needed school supplies.



Each donation of \$19 allows us to put another kit into the hands of a kid in need. You can donate to a particular team, or you can just make a general donation to this event. Right now, we are set to build 1,000 kits. You can still donate to help and increase that number.

[Donate to the LGBT Build-A-Kit](#)

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