

September 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 !](#)

Last Chance to Buy Your Gala Tickets

Click below for Tickets and the NOW-LIVE Silent Auction



This is your last chance to join us for a special evening that is guaranteed to be both fun and rewarding. We've got so much planned including a great dinner buffet, open bar, silent auction with a ton of spectacular items plus a wine pull, and an after-party with live music and dessert bar.

If you are unable to join us, you can still be a part of the event by joining in and bidding on our [Silent Auction](#) which is now online and LIVE. Check everything out and start bidding now! Silent auction items include a bunch of trips, an extreme driving experience on a real racetrack, concert tickets, dinners at hot restaurants around town and so much more! Remember that all proceeds from the auction go directly toward efforts to help even more children.

[Buy Your Gala Tickets](#)

[Check out the Silent Auction](#)

U fo I Build-A-Kit Benefits Central Illinois Families

Building and Distributing 1000 kits makes an impact

On one Friday night last month, the gym of the Don Moyer Boys and Girls Club in Champaign was not filled with the sounds of basketballs, squeaking gym shoes and the shouts of young people playing ball. Instead, it was quiet, all set with tens of thousands of school supplies lined up on tables along with tons of Back 2 School kits boxes. Then, starting at 8:00 the following morning, the gym came alive with music pumping and dozens of volunteers hyped up and ready to work. For the next five hours, everyone worked at an incredible pace to make sure all 1,000 kits got assembled before people from the community and organizations stopped by to pick up Back 2 School kits. What a great day, and the volunteers were spectacular. Thanks to CA Ventures and Busey Bank for helping to fund the event.

This was the second large Build-A-Kit and Distribution in three days, as just two days earlier, over 7000 kits were assembled in one place, and then delivered for wider distribution across the Chicagoland area.



Lincoln Commons Comes Together

Food, Fun and many many residents join up for kids



Over 25 volunteers recently met on the beautiful 20th floor of the north tower at The Apartments at Lincoln Commons. The energy and excitement in the room of all who gathered to help assemble our Back 2 School kits was an amazing thing to witness. Writing "Notes of Inspiration" and assembling kits while enjoying refreshments, music and comradery made this event to help kids a huge success.

If you are interested in having your company, group or organization come together to build Back 2 School kits, please contact us at info@b2si.org.



"We Appreciate Teachers" Contest Deadline Almost Here

Last chance to nominate a special teacher

Tick-tock, tick-tock, tick-tock... time is running out for you to show your appreciation for that amazing teacher who gives their time, talent, love and care to your student. This contest offers that teacher a chance to win a Back 2 School Illinois gift package, which includes school supplies for their students and something special for them.

Nominations can be made through the B2SI website. Anyone can submit an application on behalf of a teacher, including the teacher him/herself. The teacher

must be currently employed by a school. Ten names will be drawn from all entries submitted by the deadline: Friday, September 24, 2021, at 5 pm CT.



Welcome Our Newest Board Members

Jeremy Bush, Melissa Cooper, and Jon McCulloch

We recently added three individuals to our Board of Directors, and we couldn't be happier to have them join our ranks. You can read their full profiles on our website but here is a bit of information on each.



Jeremy Bush is a healthcare consultant with the Chartis Group. He has a passion for healthcare and seeks to make a meaningful difference in the U.S. healthcare industry. Prior to the Chartis Group, Jeremy worked at Crowe LLP, where he specialized in healthcare finance consulting. Jeremy has found that, like in healthcare, there exist significant disparities in education, and he seeks to make an impact by helping B2SI provide educational opportunities for children in need. He believes it is crucial that children are given the necessary resources to succeed in the classroom.

Melissa Cooper is a senior vice president and director at Associated Bank, managing teams of implementation and client onboarding specialists. Led by a desire to support causes that seek to help women, children and economic development, Melissa has volunteered with a variety of organizations, which include the YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago, Literacy Chicago and Girls on the Run. In addition to the Back 2 School board, Melissa is a board member of the Great Galilee Community Development Center in Milwaukee, WI, and the Haute Couture Club of Chicago.



Jonathan McCulloch is co-chief executive officer of Belgravia Group, Ltd., a leading Chicago residential real estate development firm that he joined in 2004. He is also a principal at Lakewest, Inc., a Belgravia affiliate involved in non-residential real estate and private equity investments, and a co-founder of Lakewest Venture Partners. For the past five years, Belgravia Group has organized a Build-a-Kit event with some



of its business partners, successfully raising tens of thousands of dollars and assembling countless kits. Throughout this time, Jonathan became closer to our organization, recognized the importance of our mission, and joined the board in recognition that there are few better causes than what BS2I offers. He feels that beyond the tangible nature and joy in providing children with necessary supplies, B2SI helps children build their self-esteem and alleviates a burden on teachers and schools alike when the school year begins each year.

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