

May 2022 – Newsletter

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



Every \$22.50 donation allows us to provide one more underserved child with their own Back 2 School supplies kit.

[Donate Today!](#)



Watch Us Grow. Help Us Grow

We Are Back 2 School America and We Need Your Help

For those of you who attended our May Spring Soirée, we thank you for coming and sharing a very special night with us.. Thanks to your support and a growing list of individuals and companies that believe all children deserve a first-rate education, we are expanding our Back 2 School program around the United States. We will

now be **Back 2 School America**

We are greatly increasing the number of children and families we provide with our signature Back 2 School kits. Our commitment to local communities will not change. Your dollars will remain local and impact those in your state.

We appreciate the faith you've placed in us over the past 12 years. While we are proud of the fact that we've distributed 9 million school supplies to more than 300,000 kids from low-income families, our work is far from done. The need for our Back 2 School kits and the impact they have is undeniable. Together, we are making a real difference. You can see it on the faces of the children, their parents, and their teachers.

We have big plans for 2022. We're adding more events, working with more schools and more organizations, adding more partners, and creating new programs. But we are just getting started.

Please make your tax-deductible donation today!

All the best,

Matthew Kurtzman
CEO



2022 We Appreciate Teachers Contest

Spreading Love and Appreciation
to Educators Across Illinois

On Tuesday, May 3rd, we celebrated 15 amazing Illinois teachers and educators with our 2022 We Appreciate Teachers event. The champagne reception, hosted at Lincoln Commons, turned into an unexpectedly emotional evening as we heard from both the individuals that nominated the teachers and some of the teachers themselves. The passion for teaching and commitment to the students was evident in speaker after speaker. It was truly inspiring.

Winners received a gift basket overflowing with goodies from Cabot Creamery, Starbucks, Amy's Candy Bar, Hooters, Lynfred Winery, Chicago Candle Co., and Epic Gourmet Popcorn. Plus, each teacher was awarded Back 2 School kits for every child in their classrooms. What an incredible evening spent recognizing the hard work and dedication that these educators put forth every year to provide the best educational opportunities for their students!

Thank you to our sponsors Republic Bank, Hooters, Athleta, and Lynfred Winery for

making this event possible.



Spring Soirée

Fundraising High, on the 47th Floor of Winston & Strawn





Thank you to all those who attended our 2022 Spring Soirée event. It was an evening to remember! Our guests were able to enjoy hors d'oeuvres, an open bar, various raffle events, a wine pull, music, and a whole lot of fun. What a wonderful way to come together, celebrate, and help raise money for kids to have access to the educational opportunities they so deserve.

One of the highlights of the evening was a heartfelt testimony from Dr. Edmond Kelly, one of the Illinois educators who was honored at our 2022 We Appreciate Teachers contest earlier this spring. His story was the perfect illustration of how Back 2 School is making a difference. Our emcee, Wayne Johnson, was a hit with our guests and did an incredible job guiding the evening's festivities and reminding the guests of the importance of this organization and its mission. Finally, we made the exciting announcement that we are officially expanding our organization and changing our name from Back 2 School Illinois to Back 2 School America. This will allow us to have an even greater impact across the country.

A big thank you goes out to the tireless efforts of the Spring Soirée Committee who put so much time, love, and energy into making the evening a huge success. We also want to thank everyone who was able to donate to our event, even those who were not able to attend. Your donations will continue to positively impact many low-income children and families across the country.

Back 2 School America Invades Orlando and Dallas

Expanding the Footprint of Helping Kids

During late April, we had three very large Build-A-Kit events helping the kids and families of Operation Homefront. A large number of Raytheon and Lockheed employees at four separate events, spanning two weekends, came together to make an impact on military families. Altogether over 2,000 kits were assembled and will be distributed this summer.

Kids everywhere deserve the opportunity to succeed, and Back 2 School kits help them have the tools they need to assist in their learning. Wherever you live in the USA, we can help your company or organization help those kids in your state. Back 2 School America is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, whose mission is to create and support educational opportunities that enrich the lives of children across the USA.

Be a part of it!



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