

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

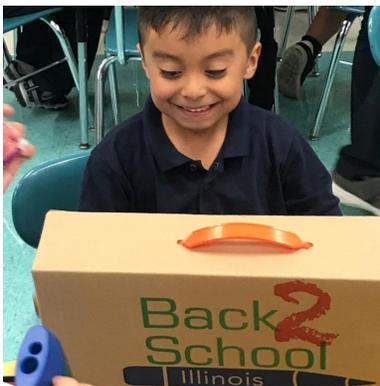


March 2020 NEWSLETTER

For every \$18 dollar donation you will help in our ongoing work to supply underserved Illinois children with our signature Back 2 School supply kits throughout the school year.

Letter from our CEO

Challenging Times But Our Commitment to Kids Continues



Dear Stakeholders:

Due to the current health crisis created by the COVID-19 situation, we felt it necessary to push back our annual Back 2 School Illinois Gala from May 7 to September 16. The Gala is a celebration of our 10th anniversary as a nonprofit and we want to make sure as many of our supporters are able to attend and enjoy themselves to the fullest extent. As such, the Gala we are planning will be our biggest and best yet, and certainly worth the wait. We will be sending out updated communications in the coming months with more details including the new date confirmation, and how to get tickets and

volunteer.

While moving the Gala may be a disappointment or inconvenience to some, there is one large problem we face as a result of the delay: a loss of income. This is being exacerbated by loss of revenue from some of our corporate partners, who have been forced to postpone or cancel their Build-A-Kit programs with us. This one-two punch means our ability to provide Back 2 School kits to our community partners, to schools and to government agencies like DCFS and DFSS is in jeopardy. So, we are asking each of you to consider making a contribution today, so we can continue our efforts to provide underserved kids with Back 2 School kits this year.

If there is any good to come from this epidemic, it is a reminder that we are all in this together and we must all look out for one another. What you choose to do or not do impacts your neighbors, your community, our world. Please take care of yourself but also remember to take care of those who need your assistance during these uncertain times.

From our entire staff and Board of Directors, be safe, be kind and stay well.

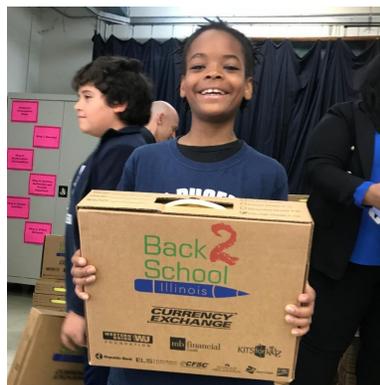
Warmly,

Matthew Kurtzman

DONATE TODAY

Nominate a School to Win School Supplies for Every Student

Two Schools Will Be Surprised in September



We are looking for two deserving Chicago schools to win free school supplies. Every student at both of the winning schools will receive their own grade-appropriate Back 2 School kit, loaded with the core supplies they need for the year. This contest is open to any Chicago school with students from pre-kindergarten up through high school.

Anyone can nominate a Chicago school and there is no limit to how many times a school can be nominated. Whether you are a parent, community leader, concerned citizen, student or member of a faculty, you can enter the

contest on behalf of a school.

Then, during the first week of classes this fall, the student bodies of both winning schools will be surprised by Back 2 School Illinois with the delivery of the free school supply kits.

Applications are available for downloading now and must be postmarked by August 1. Get your entries in now!

Click here to watch a YouTube video of what happened at one of our winning school last year, [Mariano Azuela Elementary School](#).

Application for "Win School Supplies" Contest

Taking a Look Back 2010, The Year We Became a Nonprofit

Picture it, the year was 2010 and we became a nonprofit. We had already been handing out Back 2 School kits in partnership with the YMCA of Metro Chicago for several years. The program, which was started through the efforts of the Community Currency Exchange Association of Illinois, had started to take root. In our first year as a registered 501(c)(3) charitable organization, we donated 7,950 kits containing 254,130 school supplies to at-risk kids during the month of August. We were just in our infancy and we even had a different name back then. There were only a handful of board members, no office, just one event, and few people knew who we were.

While we were small, we were passionate, and we knew we were on to something. Those companies and individuals that were involved recognized the importance of education and what we were hoping to accomplish. The need, coupled with those early pioneers of the organization, allowed us to grow and flourish.

Our mission back then and today remains the same: to create and support educational opportunities that enrich the lives of Illinois children. We are proud of our heritage and those humble beginnings. We continue to grow and impact more children here in Illinois and more recently, in other states around the country.



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