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Students Get Packing for Hurricane Relief

Project Backpack Runs Through Monday, October 17

They've collected hygiene items to go in the donated classroom trailers, and now students in the Falls Church City Public Schools are filling backpacks to help hurricane victims. Project Backpack is a kid-to-kid effort to provide much needed school supplies to students in areas affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Students can donate their gently used backpacks, school supplies and books to help those in need. The items don't have to be new or fancy, but should be in good condition. School supplies can include paper, pens and pencils, markers, crayons, coloring books and gently used books.

Students can also add something fun, such as playing cards or a small toy, and a note to the recipient, along with a self-addressed stamped envelope so the child who gets the backpack can write a letter in return. Items to avoid include food or drinks (no candy or gum); sharp objects (like non-safety scissors), stuffed animals or clothing.

Drop-off boxes are located at Mount Daniel Elementary School, Thomas Jefferson Elementary School, Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School and the Falls Church Community Center. Backpacks may also be dropped off at Stacy's Coffee Parlor located at 709 West Broad Street and Long & Foster Realtors-7 Corners located at 6299 Leesburg Pike. The program runs through Monday, October 17.

Project Backpack is sponsored by the PTA and the Falls Church City Public Schools. It is part of a year-long commitment by the City of Falls Church Hurricane Relief Task Force to help people displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

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