

# Operation Back to School Chandler assists more than 2,500 students

School is back in session, and thanks to the generosity of volunteers and sponsors, more than 2,500 Chandler students received backpacks filled with a variety of supplies needed for a successful school year.

In addition to the free backpacks, more than 2,500 pairs of underwear and socks, 1,400 uniforms, 1,000 books and 300 pairs of shoes were distributed. Other faith groups provided uniforms and backpacks in collaboration with Operation Back to School, which eliminated duplication of efforts as well as an extension of resources. More than 50 organizations also participated at the event to pass out information about various services available to Chandler families and students.

"This is our fourth annual event, and each year, it gets bigger and better," said Councilman Kevin Hartke. "We couldn't organize this event without the help from our corporate partners, nonprofits and the donations from our residents and City employees. We thank everyone who contributed this year."

Operation Back to School Chandler is organized by: Chandler Christian Community Center, Chandler Unified School District, CARE Center, Fans Across America, CrossRoads Nazarene Church, Chandler Neighborhood Resources, ICAN, Boys & Girls Club, EV Jewish Community Center, M.I.L.K., Valley of the Sun United Way and For Our City - Chandler. City officials would like to thank the



Thousands of families attend this year's Operation Back to School event at Chandler High School.

event's generous sponsors, including Chandler Compadres, Salt River Project, Chandler Service Club, Intel, East Valley JCC, Whataburger, Nazarene, Cox Communications, First Things First, Scott Detherage Foundation, Chandler

Firefighter Charities, Chandler United Methodist Church, Downtown Chandler Community Foundation, Trinity Christian Fellowship, Kiwanas, Under the Shield - Team 905, APS, Sun Lakes United Church of Christ, CARE Inc.,

Seniors from Chandler Senior Center, Chase's Diner, Riviera Broadcasting, St. Andrew the Apostle Church, Chandler Non-Profit Coalition, Clothes Cabin and the Islamic Center of the East Valley.




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