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OFFICE DEPOT PACKS THE SHELVES OF THE TEACHING TOOLS SUPPLY STORE

Retail store and its Foundation provide over 2,100 backpacks for disadvantaged students

(October 19, 2010) TAMPA – Representatives from local Office Depot stores and the Office Depot Foundation made a stop at the Hillsborough Education Foundation on Thursday, October 14 to deliver more than 2,100 backpacks and shoulder bags to the Teaching Tools Supply Store. These bags will be placed on store shelves for teachers at 100 of the county’s Title I schools to bring back to their classrooms for their students in need.

The donation is a part of the Office Depot Foundation’s National Backpack Program, which has donated 2.3 million backpacks to students across the U.S., in Canada and around the world since 2001. This year the program celebrates its 10th anniversary.

“The Foundation is strongly committed to enhancing the quality of life for children, families, and communities across the United States and around the world. This program represents one of the key ways in which Office Depot supports the Foundation’s strategic priority of ‘helping children succeed in school – and in life,’” said Jim Olsen, District Sales Manager of Major Accounts for Office Depot, “By making these donations to deserving children served by schools and non-profit organizations across the United States, we’re confident that we are truly making an investment in their future. We appreciate the opportunity to support Hillsborough County Public Schools.”

The bags will reach at-risk students in Hillsborough County through the Hillsborough Education Foundation’s Teaching Tools for Hillsborough Schools program, which provides basic school supplies to students and teachers, at no cost to them. Through the program’s Supply Store, more than 2,300 teachers and 50,000 students benefit from the free school supplies each year.

For more information on Teaching Tools for Hillsborough Schools, visit www.educationfoundation.com.

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Information on the Hillsborough Education Foundation:

The Hillsborough Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization whose mission is to invest community resources to help students achieve academic success. Serving the students, teachers and schools in our community, the Foundation has invested more than \$75 million towards public education. The Foundation raises more than \$5 million annually and fulfills its mission through five core initiatives: Career & Technical Education, Excellence in Education, Scholarships, School Enrichment, and Teaching Tools for Hillsborough Schools.

About the Office Depot Foundation

The Office Depot Foundation is an independent foundation that serves as the independent charitable giving arm of Office Depot, Inc. In keeping with its mission, Listen Learn Care®, the Foundation supports programs that help children succeed in school and in life; enable non-profit organizations to become more efficient and effective; help people and businesses prepare for disasters, then recover and rebuild afterwards; strengthen communities through grants, product donations and volunteerism; and encourage community development through entrepreneurship and economic innovation.