



Program & Speaking Points

By starting out your Kit build with a program, your participants will have a greater understanding of the impact they are making. Your program may be as brief or elaborate as you wish. The standard format we recommend includes 1) Showing a video, 2) Speaking about why this event is important (speaking points provided below), 3) Giving basic instructions on how to build the Kits (i.e. where to get in line, where to write notes and where to put the completed Kits) then 4) Dismissing people to start building! Please also encourage your participants to take their time writing their notes. Each note is cherished by the person who receives the Kit and they are kept long after the supplies are gone as a reminder that someone cares about them.



The Challenge

- Over 40 Million people live in poverty in the U.S. – a number greater than the entire population of Canada.
- Nearly 16 million children live in families with incomes below the federal poverty level
- There are more than 37,000 Title I schools in the U.S. where 31 million children qualify for free/reduced lunch programs.
- Every day parents are faced with difficult choices between purchasing the school supplies their children need or buying food and paying rent.
- In most areas, a family of four needs to earn twice the poverty line to provide the basic necessities for their children (National Center for Children in Poverty, Budgeting for Basic Needs).
- Many public school teachers spend between \$400 and \$1000 of their own money each year on school supplies for students whose families can't afford to provide them.

The Opportunity

By assembling backpacks filled with basic school supplies, you are helping children from low-income families feel more confident and motivated to learn.

Kelley Allison, teacher at an elementary school says, "They feel really cool. They walk around and show them off to their friends and it just makes them feel good."

Share About the Impact of Your Kits

If your group decides to keep the backpacks and distribute locally, we recommend having a representative from that school or organization speak to your group or provide you with information on the recipients. This is a great way to gather information from your own community and area you are serving and see the impact of your SchoolTools backpacks.

This would also give the participants meaningful insight to the kids that will receive their backpack and help with their encouraging note.



1.800.478.5481 or **kits@worldvision.org**

www.worldvision.org/KITS



TIPS:

- Create questions that event participants can reflect on individually or in small groups after watching the SchoolTools video.
- Read a sample note of encouragement to give participants an idea of what to write.

Sample Note:

I hope this backpack brings you joy and encourages you to do well in school. There is someone who cares about you and hopes you will always reach for the stars and try your best at whatever you do!

– Joan Anders, Tacoma, WA



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