



Summary for Group Leaders

Encourage learning for students
from low-income families

The Challenge

- 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.
- Many public school teachers spend between \$400 and \$1,000 of their own money each year on school supplies for students whose families can't afford to provide them.

The Opportunity

Assembling SchoolTools backpacks is an effective, hands-on way you can:

- Discover a hands-on opportunity to demonstrate compassion for children living in poverty.
- Involve your colleagues, church members, family, and friends in a fun and meaningful community service project.
- Come together to change the lives of children in the U.S.
- Develop a greater awareness of poverty in the U.S. and have an opportunity to make a difference.

World Vision will provide you with all the necessary planning and promotional materials, help you order school supplies in bulk, and will coordinate shipping logistics if necessary.

About World Vision's response to educational challenges in the U.S.

World Vision and various partners throughout the U.S. are joining together to make sure that children living in low-income families have the basic supplies they need to adequately learn. Far too many families cannot afford these materials, even such basic items like pencils, pens, and notebooks. When children have their own school supplies it builds self-esteem and also frees up family resources for other essentials such as food, medicine, and utilities.

About SchoolTools backpacks

Without the basic tools to be able to participate in the learning process, many students attend class with low self-esteem, feeling unprepared and inadequate to learn. The gift of school supplies can be an encouragement to a child already living in difficult circumstances, giving them an opportunity to go a little further than they thought they could—and knowing that someone else cares about them and their situation.

How a SchoolTools backpack event works

Companies, churches, schools, and other groups raise funds for, and assemble, SchoolTools backpacks which are shipped to World Vision distribution centers throughout the U.S. or a local non-profit helping children living in low-income families.

It's easy to hold your own SchoolTools backpack event!

Participating groups decide how many kits they'd like to assemble. World Vision will coordinate the bulk purchase of your backpack contents. To help us keep supply costs as low as possible, we ask each group to assemble a minimum of 50 backpacks. Each backpack is \$22 and covers the costs of the backpacks, all school supplies, taxes, shipping, and handling.

Then your group holds an "assembly day" where everyone comes together to assemble the backpacks and write notes of encouragement to the child who will receive the backpack. After the event, you will receive an invoice for the donation amount.

For more information or to register your event
1.800.478.5481 or **kits@worldvision.org**
www.worldvision.org/schooltools

