



From homelessness to hope.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Backpacks!! New Haven Home Recovery issued a plea to members of the New Haven and shoreline communities requesting backpacks for the school age children in all of our programs.

This included all of the children in all of the family shelters in New Haven; the children in our permanent resident housing programs and also the kids in NHHR scattered-site (permanent) housing. It also included the young people in our other programs: *SEARCH* (Services, Education & Activities Serving Children who are Homeless); *The Children's Education Partnership* a program linking educators, school administrators, shelter personnel and shelter residents informing them of the rights of homeless children (under the McKinney-Vento Act); and our most recent educational program *The Family School Connection* which provides family support for children in K – 8 in Fairhaven (these families are not homeless). The goal is to help children succeed by home visitations helping these families through difficult challenges which helps the children to succeed academically. For more comprehensive information please view our web site www.nhhr.org.

The result of this backpack drive was truly AMAZING! Our goal was to collect 148 backpacks complete with the necessary supplies all age appropriate. 27 groups, individuals, NHHR board members and others generated 250 backpacks and a ton of necessary supplies to re-fill from time to time. All 148 children in NHHR's programs received their backpacks in time for the start of school. We have also been able to share our excess with children in need of backpacks in Fairhaven and other areas. Backpacks and supplies continue to arrive at our office and believe me they are distributed promptly and wisely. We think this is newsworthy information, especially during this difficult time.

This AMAZING response is especially appreciated during this critical economic downturn with so many families experiencing job losses and yet were able to outreach our children in such dire need of help.

These programs are just another step in the quest of NHHR to eradicate the need for homeless shelters by providing permanent housing with support services, to keep families stable and housed and what better way to succeed than to provide help for the young people in our many programs.