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## **THE CHILD CENTER OF NY ANNOUNCES 2023 BACKPACK AND SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE**

*As Cost of Essentials Continues to Rise, New Yorkers can Equip a Student or an Entire Classroom in Need with School Supplies*

**New York** —As children and families prepare to return to the classroom in just a few weeks, The Child Center of NY (TCCNY) has launched its annual [Backpack and School Supply Drive](#), which will provide young people in its acclaimed youth services programs with a fully stocked backpack at no cost to their family. This year, TCCNY has set an ambitious goal to provide over 12,000 backpacks to students across New York City. The drive goes through September 7, 2023.

Rising costs of essentials is a challenge for parents and students. Families with children in elementary through high school will spend an average of \$890 on school items, approximately \$25 more than last year and a new high, according to a recent report from the [National Retail Federation](#).

A participant from 2022’s drive shared that she loved the book, crayons, stapler, and sharpener that came in her backpack. “I love all the supplies because I can use them for school,” she said. “I feel happy and excited.”

“Every young person deserves to enter their classroom this fall with the confidence and support they need to succeed—and that means having the basics in their backpack,” said **Kathleen Rivera, Chief Development and Communications Officer at TCCNY**. “We know that many of the families we serve are struggling to afford the essentials. We don’t want them to have to choose between putting food on the table or pencils in their child’s backpack—and with the help of our fellow New Yorkers, we can make sure 12,000 families don’t have to face that choice.”

For \$35, individuals can purchase a fully stocked backpack for a student in grades K-12 who is working with The Child Center in its mental health, youth services, or community schools programs. For \$1,000, an organization can provide backpacks and school supplies for an entire classroom.

TCCNY has provided nearly 22,000 students with backpacks and supplies since the backpack drive launched in 2015. Over the past two years, the Child Center’s Youth Development Division has doubled in size and the need for backpacks and supplies has also doubled to meet the increase of youth served across Queens, Manhattan, and Brooklyn. Please visit the [campaign page](#) for more information and how to make a gift of support.

**About The Child Center of NY:**

Our mission is to strengthen children and families with skills, opportunities, and emotional support to build healthy, successful lives. Founded in 1953, The Child Center is a multiservice organization that reaches over 55,000 children and families each year, ranging from birth through adulthood, at almost 70 schools and community locations. The Child Center works in six main program areas: early childhood education; behavioral health; residential treatment; prevention and family support; health homes and integrated care; and youth development. The Child Center is based primarily in Queens but also serves children and families in Brooklyn, the Bronx, and Manhattan, as well as Long Island. To learn more, please visit <https://childcenterny.org/>