

NEWS RELEASE

August 4, 2009



NEWS FLASH: SCHOOL STARTS IN 19 DAYS!

As the new school year begins, children in Salinas are filled with expectancy and excitement as they look forward to meeting new teachers, seeing old friends, and making new ones. Unfortunately, many families face the stress of choosing whether to buy food and pay rent, or purchase backpacks and basic school supplies their children need.

In response, the Salinas Public Library's Homework Center is planning a **Backpack Extravaganza** and needs your help today!

On Saturday, August 15th free backpacks and basic school supplies will be provided to children who visit Cesar Chavez Public Library in Salinas, while supplies last. Our goal is to raise \$5000 and help 250 children. A donation of \$500 has already been received to kick-off this effort!

We are asking you to donate \$20 or more to help meet our goal

Each \$20.00 will provide one backpack and basic school supplies for one child

Backpacks and school supplies may be donated at "bins" placed at various locations in Salinas prior to the event including United Way, Chappala Restaurant, First Awakenings Restaurant, and all three Salinas Public libraries.

On August 15th, we will have a Backpack Extravaganza at the Cesar Chavez Public Library. Information tables will be set up to educate parents on the various community services available to support their children's education, and all groups and individuals that make donations will be welcome to participate.

Please consider lending us a helping hand. Send a check today to:

Salinas Public Library Backpack Extravaganza

Attn: Mary Ellison

350 Lincoln Ave.

Salinas, CA 93901

Or drop off your check or make a cash donation at any Salinas Public Library:

John Steinbeck Library

350 Lincoln Ave.

Cesar Chavez Library

615 Williams Rd.

El Gabilan Library

1400 N. Main St.

For more information, please contact Mary Ellison, Literacy Program Manager, at 831-758-7917.