

## Office Depot and Communities In Schools of Atlanta donate new backpacks to DeKalb students

Last month, Communities In Schools (CIS) of Atlanta and Office Depot provided backpacks to 100 3rd graders at Gresham Park Elementary in DeKalb County. Office Depot, a longtime partner to CIS, provided 300,000 backpacks to nonprofits throughout the nation with its 2007 National Backpack Program. CIS of Atlanta received more than 2,000 backpacks, which the organization is distributing to its partner schools in Atlanta and DeKalb county. During the 2007-08 school year, CIS of Atlanta is working in partnership with 62 schools in Atlanta and DeKalb to serve more than 33,000 students and their families.



*Gresham Elementary parent Janice Clark (back row, far left), Principal Lucille Sharper and CIS of Atlanta Program Coordinator Michelle Hampton (back row, far right) and PTA Vice President Naomi McFadden, and Gresham elementary 3rd graders at the August backpack distribution event.*

Gresham Park Elementary Principal, Lucille Sharper, acknowledged her appreciation for CIS of Atlanta's commitment to DeKalb students as she

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addressed a captive audience of 3rd graders during the backpack distribution event on August 29th. "You can't build a house without tools, right? Well, you can't successfully learn without the proper tools. CIS is committed to making sure you have those tools. Your backpack, pencils, notebooks, paper... those are critical parts of being prepared and ready to learn everyday," she told students.

Nationwide, an estimated 17.4 million children from low-income families will return to school this fall without basic supplies such as paper, pencils, binders and backpacks. When children have the right supplies and clothing, it can mean a boost to their dignity and ability to learn. Education provides a way for a child to break out of poverty in the United States and around the world.

CIS of Atlanta has been connecting community resources with schools to help kids successfully learn, stay in school and prepare for life since 1972. During the 2006-07 school year, CIS of Atlanta generated more than \$3.4 million in volunteer hours, in-kind donations and cash grants to support its partner schools.

For more information about CIS of Atlanta, visit, [www.cisatlanta.org](http://www.cisatlanta.org).