Every Child Deserves a Bright Future!

WHEW!!!

Thanks to each and every one of you for helping to make School is Cool 2016 a grand success! Shared Housing is extremely blessed to have such great volunteers, leaders and supporters — from those who take it upon themselves to collect school supplies before the first announcement is made to those who are there to help us see it through to the last plea for help.

While I run the risk of missing some of you (my apologies in advance) who were generous with your time and resources in completing this year’s drive and event, there are a few whose contributions cannot go unnoticed:

- **Billy and Dodee Crockett**, who secured the fantastic and very fashionable backpacks for the young ones Kinder, 1st and 2nd. *Who wouldn’t want to go to school to show off the ballerina shoe backpack or sport ball motifs (with matching water bottle)?*

- **Wendy** and her team from InSource Group, who ordered and delivered backpacks for the high school students. - some of the coolest looking backpacks to add to one’s stride!

- **Chris Luna**, who rallied his colleagues at MetroPCS to magically deliver so many of the school supplies for all!

- **Jacky S.** coordinated employees at ACRE Capital for the second year in a row and exceeded their goal of collecting school supplies. It took two trips!

- **Liz Falk** at JPI and **Joy Thompson** at S&P Global, newcomers to our school team, for the collection of supplies – both companies and their team leaders did an amazing job in corralling office colleagues!

- And of course, our **Southwest Airlines MIT I Spring Class**, who secured backpacks and supplies for grades 3rd – 8th!

- And I dare not leave out our awesome board members, who always come through with supplies and donations. One of our board members – **Janis Hefley**, invited her family for Sunday dinner and strongly encouraged everyone to bring school supplies that night!

It warms the heart and puts a smile on our faces to know that high-power and extremely busy folks carve time out to personally order, shop or even drop off supplies! Thank you! School is Cool has an important message for our families: education is key to breaking the cycle. Thank you all for your investment and support!
Cool Volunteers

This year we had Patrick and Nina McGarrahans (twin siblings) serve as our teen volunteers. Their responsibility included preparing games, arts & crafts and prizes for our participants. They also added a few new games that were a big hit!

A big THANK YOU to the family & friends who volunteered behind the scenes and/or on that day. Neither rain or thunderstorms kept you away!

Cotton Candy Chics – were busy til closing!

Acre Capital (and family member) busy shaving ice and pouring flavors for sno cones!

The INSOURCE GROUP grills hot dogs for the hungry crowd of children, moms and volunteers!
School is Cool 2016 Memories

JPI employees took 1/2 day off to help pack!

Beth from JPI filling backpacks

Patrick challenges participants with “are you ready for 3rd grade”?

Altrusa volunteers operate the kids games!

Bingo for Moms was a huge hit—thanks Sally & Kelli!

Volunteer Andy and board member Anna challenge the children!
Thank you to our sponsors, donors, volunteers, friends and family for making School is Cool 2016 a success. This is only possible because of your commitment, compassion and energy!

ACRE CAPITAL
--Jacky Salazar & employees

ALTRUSA – Downtown Dallas Chapter
Laurie Bostic & Kim Martin
Mary Grace Cicerello
Jessica Conlee, hubby James & son Preston
Billy & Dodee Crockett
DODGE DATA & ANALYTICS
--Melanie Yancey
Andrew Foster
GEHAN HOMES
--Kevin Dym
Julie Gunter
Janis Hefley & Larry Fontana & fam.

HOPE SUPPLY

INSOURCE GROUP
--Wendy Garrett & employees

JPI
--Liz Falk & employees

MEISEL/RR Donnelley
--Viki Reynolds & employees

MERRILL LYNCH
--Rhonda Avila & employees

METROPICS
--Chris Luna & employees
Maria Machado
Meghan Meehan
Rebecca Murphy
Nina McGarrah
Patrick McGarrah
Andy & Toni McGarrah
Meghan Meehan
Rebecca Murry
Kellie Owens
George & Rosa Pena

PUENTES ENTERPRISES, INC.
--Gina Puentes
Rili Ratliff
RAINBOW DAYS, INC.
Gregory Schmidt
Sally Strong

SOUTHWEST AIRLINES
--MIT I Spring 2016
--Communications - Chris Mainz

S&P Global
Joy Thompson & employees
Donna Tarver
Wendy Timson
Laura Venhaus & daughter Charlotte
Anna Whatley

First Day of School - oh what fun!

Great prizes at School is Cool!

Rhonda & Merrill Lynch friends packed supplies

"Carmen was only 4 when she was in our program - now she is 14. Heading to high school!"
My name is Gail McCoy and I work as a Case Manager Assistant for Shared Housing. This was my first time participating in such an event. In preparation for this, I worked with individuals who donated school supplies and volunteered their time to help families by stuffing back packs. It was amazing to see the outpouring of love, time and patience that everyone put in to assisting these families. It was awesome to see current and former clients actively participate in the day’s activities. There were several games for the families and we served all kinds of food including cotton candy, sno-cones, popcorn and everything that you could imagine kids would love. It was rewarding to see the staff and volunteers help with every aspect of the party. My heart smiled, beaming with joy observing how grateful the families were upon receiving their backpacks and supplies. Our Director put a lot of love in the details from every aspect. I am so thankful and blessed to be working for this organization and with people that truly care about meeting the needs of those less fortunate. It was truly a wonderful and inspiring event! I look forward to planning and participating next year. We hope to be able to serve many more families as it grows and with your help we know we will.

DREAM ACHIEVER awards new scholarships and catches up with “alumni”.

Gisselle, received a Dream Achiever Scholarship! She was only 5 when she was in our program.

Lupita is entering her senior year at Brown University. While here visiting Dallas, she did a summer internship at UT Southwestern. Way to go!!!

Dream Achiever, honoring Dodee Crockett, continues to award scholarships to our young adults who were/are in our program and heading to college! This year we gave three scholarships to young women heading to Brookhaven College, UT Arlington and UNT. Congrats and best of luck to you all!

Lupita, seen here with her brother-in-law & sister stopped by during summer from Brown University.
My name is Carmen and I will be a freshman in high school this year. This past summer I had learned about a summer job for teens through Shared Housing and I applied. But the organization that reached out for teens did not get their funding, so I was bummed because my goal was to buy clothes for school. I know that money is tight in my home. I guess Ms. Maria heard about my disappointment and found someone to help me purchase clothes for the new school year. I was only four years old when I was at Shared Housing with my mom. I don’t recall all that happened to get us there, but I remember that living there was a lot of fun. I met and played with a lot of friends — friends that to this day my mom and I continue to visit and keep up with. I guess this is a lesson Shared Housing teaches all of us — to make new family and friends. My mom and I participate with events and visit the offices when we can. Ms. Maria and the staff always think about us and, as with all the folks they help, always find time to call and check on us.

Shared Housing saved my mom & me and for that I will forever be grateful.