



Mission Backpack

Frequently Asked Questions for Collection Sites

*For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD,
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.
Jeremiah 29:11*

What is Mission Backpack?

Mission Backpack is an effort to collect new and gently used backpacks and other school supplies throughout Florida for children in the care of the Florida Baptist Children's Homes and for disadvantaged and orphaned children in targeted locations in the developing world, including Guatemala, Honduras, Haiti, Russia, Romania, and Uganda.

Mission Backpack is a partnership between the Florida Baptist Children's Homes and Orphan Outreach. The goal is to collect 5,000 backpacks and various quantities of school supplies. We need every size and type of backpack including messenger style bags and tote bags. Approximately 70 percent of the backpacks collected will be distributed to overseas locations and 30 percent will go to disadvantaged children in Florida.

The more organizations that participate in helping to promote and collect backpacks the more backpacks we will be able to provide to disadvantaged and orphaned children.

Why collect backpacks?

One of the greatest things that we can provide a child is *hope and a future*. Education is a critical pathway to a life beyond the cycle of poverty and destructive lifestyles. Something as simple as a backpack and school supplies shows a disadvantaged child that they matter and that people care about them. In addition, a backpack can engender enthusiasm and excitement for school in the hearts of children that before may have felt only hopelessness in their situation.

When will the Mission Backpack campaign take place?

The Mission Backpack drive in Florida will take place from July 20 to August 8, with radio station promotions starting on July 13.

Who is the Florida Baptist Children's Homes?

The Florida Baptist Children's Homes provides Christ-centered services to abused, neglected, and orphaned children including residential care, foster care, and adoption care services. They also conduct international childcare missions to targeted locations in the developing world including Guatemala, Honduras, Haiti, Russia, Romania, and Uganda. Read more about the Florida Baptist Children's Homes at www.FBCHomes.org.

For more information contact Danita Peterson at Danita.Peterson@FBCHomes.org or 863-687-8811

Who is Orphan Outreach?

Orphan Outreach works to minister to children who are orphaned or are at risk of being orphaned. Orphan Outreach selects ministry areas by looking at impoverished communities that have a high number of orphaned children or children at risk of being orphaned. They are currently working on projects in Guatemala, Honduras, India, and Russia with plans to expand to additional countries. Read more about Orphan Outreach at www.OrphanOutreach.org.

The Florida Baptist Children's Homes and Orphan Outreach are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations. All donations to these organizations are tax deductible including backpacks and other school supplies.

What is involved in being a collection site?

Please contact Danita Peterson at Danita.Peterson@FBCHomes.org or 863-687-8811 if you are interested in having your organization serve as a collection site for backpacks or if you have any other questions about the Mission Backpack program.

What we will do

- We will register you as a collection site.
- We will list you as a collection site on the Children's Homes' and the Orphan Outreach websites.
- We will send you free 11x17 posters to help promote the campaign and to identify your organization as a collection site.
- We will send you free Mission Backpack luggage tags so that each donor can write personal notes and attach them to their backpacks.
- We will list your organization as one that can be mentioned as a collection site on select Christian radio stations that have agreed to help promote the campaign.

What you will do

- Provide us with a contact person at your organization who will be responsible for coordinating collections at your organization and communicating with the Florida Baptist Children's Homes.
- Commit to promoting the Mission Backpack campaign to your organization and community.
- Ensure that proper signage is posted to direct people to where they can drop off their backpacks and school supplies.
- Provide secure storage for the backpacks and supplies until they are shipped or delivered to a Florida Baptist Children's Homes location.
- When the campaign is over please ship or deliver your backpacks and supplies to the Florida Baptist Children's Homes location nearest you. Addresses and contact information for the campus locations can be found on the Children's Homes website at www.FBCHomes.org.
 - Fort Myers
 - Lakeland
 - Jacksonville
 - Miami
 - Pensacola
 - Tallahassee

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