

Western Fairfax Non Profit Seeks Community Support for School Backpack Program

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries' Goal to Provide Backpacks to 2,000 School Children in Fairfax County

For Immediate Release; Contact: Jennie Bush, WFCM Community Outreach Manager, jbush@wfcmv.org

Chantilly, VA (June 25, 2014) – Western Fairfax-based not for profit Western Fairfax Christian Ministries (WFCM) is seeking volunteers from the community to donate funds and backpacks to assist needy children who attend schools in the Fairfax County area as part of its [Collect for Kids Back to School Program](#).

For the fourth year, WFCM is collaborating with Fairfax County, Fairfax County Public Schools and a variety of local non-profit organizations to provide high quality school backpacks through a partnership with the County's [Collect for Kids](#) program.

WFCM's goal is to provide backpacks for 2,000 qualified needy children who attend schools in the Centreville High School, Chantilly High School and Westfield High School pyramids. In 2013, WFCM assisted 1,995 children in those schools. Due to continued demand, WFCM is looking to slightly increase its program capacity this year in hopes of assisting every child who needs a backpack. The most needed backpack size is a larger one with at least two compartments to hold multiple books and binders for high school students.

Jennie Bush, Western Fairfax Christian Ministries Community Outreach Manager, said, "It is incredible to think that 50,000 students in the Fairfax County Public Schools system receive free or reduced price meals. Their parents are struggling to put food on the table, and the prospect of buying backpacks and school supplies is stressful for them. We hope the community will respond generously, as they have in the past, to ensure that children whose families are in crisis are able to return to school this fall with all the tools they need to succeed."

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries is grateful to its sponsors of the 2014 Collect for Kids Back to School Program, and to its many supporting churches and businesses who partner with WFCM to provide backpacks to students at 23 local elementary, middle, and high schools. Additionally, WFCM is appreciative of the support of KidsRFirst (www.kidsrfirst.org), a non-profit organization dedicated to education, which provides school supplies to the children receiving backpacks at 90 schools in Fairfax County.

Community members interested in helping support WFCM Programs may make a donation through Western Fairfax Christian Ministries' secure web site, www.WFCMVA.org, or mail a check to PO Box 220802, Chantilly, VA 20153. Donations of new backpacks are also welcome; larger backpacks are most needed for students in middle and high schools (dimensions needed 18-19 inch high x 13in wide x 8-10 inch deep, with two main compartments). Donated backpacks may be brought to WFCM's Client Services Office and Food Pantry (13888 Metrotech Drive, Chantilly, VA 20151, next to Papa John's Pizza) until August 13, Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., and Wednesday and Thursday evening from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. For suggestions on where to purchase backpacks, and the

sizes requested, please see WFCM's website, www.WFCMVA.org. For more information on donating or sponsoring a school, contact Jennie Bush at jbush@wfcmvva.org.

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries is a volunteer-based organization focused on easing the struggles of low-income families in the Western Fairfax County area of Virginia. WFCM offers emergency financial assistance for rent and utility bill payments and provides a client-choice Food Pantry to qualified residents of Western Fairfax County. WFCM also operates a Thrift Store to provide revenue to support client services and to help low-income shoppers, and provides a Backpack Program and Holiday Food Program for low-income families. It also provides a variety of Financial Literacy programs, including financial mentoring and free monthly budgeting classes and free financial counseling. For information, contact 703-988-9656 or visit www.WFCMVA.org.