



S.T.A.R.S. of West Orange

Thank you for the opportunity to share exciting news with you as we provide an update on expenditures from the C101 Grant we received from you last fall for **Project B.T.S.—Backpacks-To-Students**. The following excerpt from our Grant Application explains what we had hoped to be able to accomplish, and why...

The 2012 Back-To-School drive was hit hard when, due to a lack of resources, a decision was made to dramatically cut back the number of backpacks sent to each school in order to honor our commitment to the schools S.T.A.R.S. had partnered with in 2011. When in-kind donations fell short by nearly 4000 filled backpacks, a heartbreaking compromise was made to provide the supplies, but to limit the backpacks, since the supplies seemed most necessary. (If you have a backpack, and no supplies, it's hard to do your school work, while a grocery bag can be used to carry critical supplies when an actual backpack is not available.) Although this was not ideal, it was crucial to providing basic supplies to as many students as possible.

***Project B.T.S.—Backpacks-To-Students**, if funded, will permit S.T.A.R.S. to purchase a minimum of 500 backpacks at off-season prices to help insure that we will have not only supplies for students in August, 2013, but adequate backpacks, as well.*

Our proposed \$2000 budget was designed to purchase 500 backpacks at \$4.00 each, and, although prices are a slight bit higher than I'd like, I am overjoyed to report that, just this month, we were able to place an order for 448 backpacks—2 backpacks less than our goal, thanks to some astute shopping!

Your wonderful Grant Reward allowed us to purchase these backpacks, 6-8 weeks before our annual fund drive, and at incredible prices!

Thank you for helping us provide Supplies To Assist our Students!!!