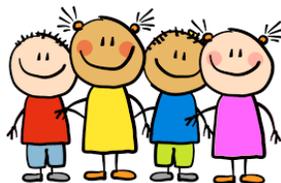


# Operation Backpack 2016

Saturday, July 30, 2016



What is "Operation Backpack":

- Since 2002 "Operation Backpack" has provided backpacks filled with school supplies to children prior to the start of each school year.
- "Operation Backpack" success is accredited to funding by Friends of the Children, Inc and generous donors
- In 2015 Friends of the Children raised \$4,065.00 and provided over 500 children in the community with a backpack and basic school supplies for the first day of school.

We need the community's support now more than ever to raise funds necessary to continue this community event!

Did you know?

- Since the economy collapsed in 2008, Florida's student population has become poorer each year.
- Almost all school districts in the state are experiencing spikes in the number of kids who qualify for subsidized meals.
- In 2014 approximately 20% of school age children lived in poverty.
- New numbers show 1 in every 4 Florida children live in poverty now. Florida ranks 37 out of 50 overall and 45<sup>th</sup> in the economic well being of children.

## **Who is Friends of the Children, Inc?**

**The Friends of the Children, Inc. (FOTC) is a 501(c)3, non-for profit Corporation in the City of Brooksville. Its purpose is to provide recreational, cultural & educational programs to benefit the children, particularly residents of the City and surrounding communities.**

## **What we need from you, the Community:**

**Your donations for this program in any amount would be greatly appreciated, please note this is a tax deductible benefit.**

- **Money or check donations in any amount (checks made payable to: Friends of the Children, Inc, 201 Howell Ave, Brooksville, FL 34601)**
- **Backpacks (either empty or filled with school supplies)**
- **School supplies for children ages K-8**
- **Gift cards & discount coupons to get school supplies**
- **Vendors who would like to set up a table at the event and hand out promotional items. Literature, coupons & services.**
- **Gifts & baskets for raffles.**

## **Where can you drop off?**

**If you have any items you would like to donate to “Operation Backpack” please visit the Jerome Brown Community Center at 99 Jerome Brown Place, Brooksville, FL 34601. We will also be putting out collection boxes in the community. (Locations are TBD)**

**If you have any questions, need more information or would like to reserve a table, please call 352-540-3835 or email Desiree Fratianni at [dfrazianni@cityofbrooksville.us](mailto:dfrazianni@cityofbrooksville.us).**