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Staples Associates Help Donate \$275,000 to Charities

Staples' employees make a difference

Toronto, ON, December 19, 2012 – Staples, the world's largest office products company and second largest internet retailer, today announced that it is donating \$275,000 to five Canadian charities as part of the company's global commitment to making a difference. The grants are funded by the Staples Foundation, the company's private charitable arm and are a part of Staples' new 2 Million & Change program, which gives Staples associates around the world the opportunity to help choose organizations to receive funding.

The top grant of \$100,000 is going to Breakfast for Learning, a non-profit organization dedicated to child nutrition programs in Canada. "The generosity of The Staples Foundation will help Breakfast for Learning give 5,000 hungry children close to 77,000 nourishing meals, delivered in school breakfast, lunch and snack programs across Canada," said Wendy Wong, president and CEO of Breakfast for Learning. "We thank Staples for helping Canadian children improve their ability to learn, giving them the best chance of success in life."

Additional top grant recipients are: Kids Help Phone at \$75,000, Salvation Army at \$50,000, WWF Canada at \$25,000, and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Canada at \$15,000.

"Community and employee engagement is deeply embedded in our company culture, and we're delighted with how our employees have responded to this exciting approach to corporate giving," said Steve Matyas, president of Staples Canada. "Together, we are dedicated to supporting worthy charities that are working tirelessly to make a difference."

Canadian associates voted for the charities to receive funding under the new 2 Million & Change program.

"We feel it's vital to support deserving organizations across the globe. Our new 2 Million & Change program builds on our commitment to make a difference and offers our associates a voice in how we achieve this," said Mike Zahra, president of Staples Advantage.

2 Million & Change is just one example of Staples' commitment to the communities in which the company's employees live and work, and is part of its overall approach to corporate social responsibility.

To learn more about the Staples Foundation, visit <u>www.staplesfoundation.org</u>.

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About Staples Canada

Staples, Canada's largest office products company is committed to providing Canadians with a wide choice of office services and products. Serving all types of business - from the small home office to large enterprise - Staples makes it easy for customers to operate their offices efficiently and affordably by offering an extensive selection of office supplies, technology, electronics and office furniture as well as business services, including computer repair and maintenance, and copy and print services. Operating as Bureau en GrosMC in the province of Quebec and Staples Canada in all other provinces, the company employs over 15,000 associates at 330+ stores and at their head office in Richmond Hill, Ontario. Ranked as one of Canada's top ten Canadian companies in Marketing Magazine's Marketing/Leger 2011 Corporate Reputation Survey, Staples/Bureau en Gros is dedicated to offering customers the highest level of service, whether they choose to shop instore, by catalogue or online. Staples Canada/Bureau en Gros also is invested in a number of corporate giving programs that actively support environmental, educational and entrepreneurial initiatives in Canadian communities from coast to coast. Visit www.staples.ca for more information, or visit us on Facebook and Twitter.

About Staples Advantage Canada

As the business-to-business division of Staples, Staples Advantage works with companies of 20 or more employees to develop customized programs with dedicated account management and a complete assortment of products and services to meet business needs.

As the leading supplier in Canada, Staples Advantage works with business partners to provide office supplies, technology products, facility supplies, furniture, and business services. Staples Advantage Canada is headquartered in Mississauga, Ontario, with eight distribution centres across Canada. Visit <u>www.staplesadvantage.ca</u> for more information, or follow us on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Twitter</u>.