



Individuals Making Progress Advancing Communities in Texas

To empower the lives of youth, families and individuals by uplifting communities to make positive changes through social services.

Backpack to School Bash 2015 ~ Post Bash Report

Background: IMPACT Texas First Annual Backpack to School Bash and Food Drive as a registered 501(c)(3) Corporation is a charitable and educational bash to provide backpacks filled with basic supplies to underserved populations (students) grades PK-12 who are starting school and to remove barriers to academic success.

Goal: We set our target goal at 100 and our planned goal of 150 backpacks filled with school supplies.

Purpose: Having the basic supplies has a positive impact on a student's self-esteem and creativity. This is an exciting and fun way for students to connect with friends and community members prior to the new school year.

Objective: We invited individuals from underserved communities to enjoy a free "Bash" full of fun activities. This included students from Title 1 Schools (which 50% of students are living below the poverty level), affordable housing communities, Girl Scout Troop 1500 which is comprised of girls that currently or have previously had an incarcerated mother and children of military families.

Outcome: To provide students with the basic school supplies when starting the new school year. We want the students and their families to learn the importance of giving by donating a non-perishable item as admittance to the bash and to know they are worthy of receiving.

Results: We provided an online registration that captured demographic data. We provided backpacks to 130 students, 117 students were registered and received backpacks filled with school supplies and 13 students who attended the bash but who were not pre-registered received backpacks without school supplies. Regarding the 117 students who were registered: 74 were females (63.2%) and 43 students were male (36.8%), 62 students were Black (52.9%), 36 were Hispanic (30.7%) and 10 were White (8.5%).

The school districts the students attended were Pflugerville ISD: 35 students (31.5%), Austin ISD: 29 students (26.1%), Round Rock ISD: 10 students (18%) and Elgin ISD: 10 students (18%).

We designated 30 backpacks to Girl Scout Troop 1500, 23 of these girl scouts registered (19% of the students) and 16 students who reside in affordable housing registered (13% of students). Thirteen students who attend Title 1 Schools registered, which were 11 percent of the students served. We also served twenty-four students who have or had an incarcerated parent which is 20% of the students served.



Individuals Making Progress Advancing Communities in Texas

During the Backpack to School Bash we distributed surveys and ask the students and families to provide feedback. On the survey we solicited volunteers and recruited five individuals to assist with packing the backpacks and giveaways for future events.

About IMPACT Texas: Our Corporation includes three Board of Directors. One Director was available to participate during the Backpack to School Bash. Onsite during the bash we had fourteen volunteers. Pre-bash volunteers assisted with prepacking items.

The bash allowed the Corporation's volunteers, Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to serve their community needs by hosting a charitable and education bash with a purpose. This bash enhanced our skills in contributing to our community, building business relationships, program development and planning.

Cost: To host this bash the approximate cost was \$7,000.00 which we received in-kind donations in products and services. This bash was held at Pflugerville Public Library with no associated cost.

Limitations: The venue space was limited. To meet our planned goal to serve 150 students with backpacks filled with school supplies, provide 100 backpacks without school supplies in Travis and Williamson counties and to increase our Sponsorship Exhibits, we will need to locate a larger venue for future Backpack to School Bash events.

Conclusions: There is a need to provide backpacks to students residing in Travis and Williamson counties and in the following Independent School Districts; Pflugerville, Austin, Round Rock and Taylor.

Recommendations: We desire to increase the number of White students who receive backpacks and our services. We also hope to address the needs of students who attend Title 1 Schools, target more students who reside in affordable housing and assist them with attending the bash by working with onsite Resident Managers in regards to providing transportation to our "Bash" if necessary. Lastly, we have a goal to increase our services to more students and families residing in Round Rock Independent School District, children of military families and children of incarcerated parents.

In 2016, we are targeting underserved populations in Bell County and will provide a 50 backpacks filled with school supplies and 50 backpacks without supplies.

We will need to approach additional sponsors who are located in Bell County for funding and in-kind donations. We hope to recruit sponsors and individual donors to host solicitation campaign activities to obtain backpacks, school supplies and additional giveaways.

*Stephanie A. Harris, MSSW
Chief Executive Officer/Founder*