

PRESS RELEASE

June 16, 2008

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Nazarene Community Resource Center (231) 773-2812

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2,400 students to receive free backpacks stocked with supplies this summer

Once again the Nazarene Community Resource Center has pulled together a “Back to School Team” as a county-wide effort to distribute FREE backpacks this summer to preschool through 12th grade students who need them. Each of the eight churches serving as a distribution site will give out 300 backpacks filled with school supplies to the first 300 students accompanied by a parent or guardian. The students must be present to receive a backpack.

The cost of one backpack with supplies is approximately \$12.50. The resource center is currently in the process of raising approximately \$30,000 in financial support through local businesses, churches, and private donors. So far *Sappi Fine Paper* has signed on as a corporate sponsor, and *The Gerber Foundation* has provided needed funding. In Whitehall, the *West Michigan Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans* has granted funds to support the August 21, 2008, backpack distribution at Lebanon Lutheran Church.

The “Back to School” event serves as a resource fair for families as well. Licensed hairdressers will volunteer their time to provide \$2 haircuts. Families will be given a free lunch, dinner, or snacks. Health and human service agencies will provide resources and church specific information will be offered. The Lions Club will provide hearing screening and Wal-Mart will provide vision screening. Resources for diabetes screening are being provided by the Hackley Diabetes Center and will be administered by volunteer nurses in the local area.

The Nazarene Community Resource Center’s Back to School Team consists of representatives from each distribution site, local businesses, community agencies, community education directors, Head Start staff, and other early childhood and public school staff. The community resource center’s Back to School team’s goal is to “serve children and families in Christian love by calling neighborhood partners and the faith-based community into action.” The Nazarene Community Resource Center offered the first Back to School event with one distribution site held at The Lakes Community Church of the Nazarene in 2001. For more information call Eileen Poll at 231-773-2812.

2008 Back To School Distribution Sites

Saturday, July 26, 2008

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The Lakes Community Church of the Nazarene, Moorland Campus

1500 S. Moorland Road

Ravenna, MI 49451

(231) 773-2812

[Please see page 2 for additional dates, times, and locations]

2008 Back To School Distribution Sites (Continued)

Thursday, July 31, 2008

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

The Lakes Community Church of the Nazarene, Eastwood Campus

2270 S. Mill Iron Rd.

Muskegon, MI 49441

(231) 773-2812

Saturday, August 2, 2008

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Holton United Methodist Church

9530 Holton Duck Lake Road

Holton, MI 49425

(231) 821-2323

Tuesday, August 5, 2008

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Calvin Christian Reformed Church

937 W. Norton

Muskegon, MI 49441

(231) 737-5207

Saturday, August 16, 2008

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Laketon Bethel Reformed Church

1568 W. Giles Road

North Muskegon, MI 49445

(231)744-1749

Thursday, August 21, 2008

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Lebanon Lutheran Church

1101 S. Mears

Whitehall, MI 49461

(231) 893-5745

Saturday, August 23, 2008

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Samuel Lutheran Church

540 Houston Ave.

Muskegon, MI 49441

(231) 722-7308

Thursday, August 28, 2008

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Mission For Area People

2500 Jefferson

Muskegon Heights, MI 49444

(231) 733-9672