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## **More than 1 in 10 Thompson School District Students Will Benefit from TEF's 2021 Help Kids Succeed School Supply Program**

LOVELAND, CO The Help Kids Succeed school supply program is a focus of Thompson Education Foundation's (TEF) work and fundraising each summer, leading to community volunteers gathering to stuff 1,700 backpacks full of necessary school supplies for economically vulnerable students. The supply-filled backpacks will be delivered to all Thompson School District schools for distribution and are available to each student who needs one. Students should request a backpack in August from the school that they are registered to attend during the school year. Backpacks at the elementary, middle and high school levels are filled with age-appropriate supplies.

TEF Executive Director Kim Akeley-Charron said "Economically vulnerable students may have multiple stress points in their family life that can interfere with focus in the classroom. Having high quality supplies and a backpack ready for the first day of school removes one stress point for students and families."

A new backpack filled with supplies for a K-12 student can cost an average of \$80 or more. Working closely with purchasing partners, TEF is able to provide the same high-quality, filled backpack for \$25, allowing more students to benefit from program donations.

For the 2021-2022 school year, TEF will fill 1,700 backpacks, a 13% increase from past years and a direct correlation to the COVID-19 pandemic impact. Other changes for this year's program include providing water bottles in each backpack and shifting to padded backpacks for middle and high school students to accommodate the school district's new "one electronic device to one student" capability.

Financial donations to Help Kids Succeed can be made online at <http://www.thompsonfef.org> or by mail to: Thompson Education Foundation, 800 S. Taft Avenue, Loveland, CO 80537.

To volunteer for backpack assembly at Conrad Ball Middle School, sign up at <http://www.thompsonfef.org> or call 970-613-5074. This year, TEF is asking for volunteers to fill shifts during the last week of July.

TEF and the Help Kids Succeed program recognize that the \$25 buys more than supplies. Twenty-five dollars buys success for the students in the classroom – with the right supplies, students have an immediate avenue of response to the classroom curriculum. Twenty-five dollars buys self-esteem – students find the same high-quality school supplies in their Help Kids Succeed filled backpack that their friends bought in local stores. Twenty-five dollars buys a sense of belonging – students understand that this program means our entire community cares and is cheering them on. Twenty-five dollars also buys a sense of relief for parents that economically struggle to provide food and shelter for their children – the cost of back-to-school supplies can be overwhelming for families.

*Thompson Education Foundation creates exceptional educational experiences for students and educators in Thompson School District.*

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