



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BACK TO SCHOOL JAMS PREPARE COUNTY YOUTH FOR THE CLASSROOM

Over 1,200 Public Housing Youth Receive
Backpacks, School Shoes, and Supplies

Los Angeles County, August 15, 2016 – During the months of July and August, the Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles (HACoLA) hosted its annual series of Back to School Jams at the Carmelitos, Harbor Hills, Nueva Maravilla, and South



County (scattered sites) public housing developments. These annual events first began in 2000, and have become a welcomed tradition by public housing youth and their families eager to make the upcoming school year a success.



HACoLA was honored to have Congressman Alan Lowenthal and Long Beach Councilman Al Austin at the Carmelitos event in Long Beach for the third year in a row. The Congressman and Councilman spent time visiting

with residents, thanking vendors for their participation and handing out backpacks to students.

During the Back to School Jams, over 50 exhibitors provided educational and health-related resources and information to some 700 families. A partial list of participating agencies included: The Molina Foundation, the California Highway Patrol, California State University, Long Beach, CB FREE Los Angeles, Vision to Learn, and Norfstarz, who provided free haircuts to youth.

Sean Rogan, HACoLA Executive Director, said, “As the new school year approaches, families face the demands of providing their children with the tools they need to be successful students. We are proud to partner with numerous public and private entities to help public housing youth put their best foot forward.”

Over 1,200 public housing youth were treated to entertainment, food, dance, brand new books, and raffles. Free child identification cards were made right on the spot, courtesy of New York Life Insurance Company. However, the highlight of each Back to School Jam was the distribution of backpacks stocked with age-appropriate school supplies, and athletic shoes for each public housing youth attending grades K-12. These gifts were made possible through the



generous support of City of Lomita Sheriff’s Station, Southside Church of Christ, Cottonwood Church, and Shelter Partnership, a local non-profit organization which provides resources and housing through its S. Mark Taper Foundation Shelter Resource Bank.

For additional information on HACoLA, please visit www.hacola.org. All media may contact Elisa Vásquez, HACoLA Public Information Officer, at (626) 586-1762.

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