



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 24, 2017 – During the month of 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 the Carmelitos event in Long Beach. HACoLA also welcomed Congresswoman Maxine Waters at both the Harbor



Hills event in the City of Lomita, and the South Scattered Sites event which were held in South Los Angeles. Each Congressional Representative 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: New Opportunities Organization; Colgate Bright Smiles; Bright Futures Mobile Dental Van; Women, Infants, and Children Program; Office of Samoan Affairs; Long Beach Health Department; Educare; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority; and Norfstarz, who provided free haircuts to youth.



“There are a lot of parents and grandparents who are raising kids on limited incomes. Preparing a child to go back to school can get expensive,” said Sean Rogan, HACoLA Executive Director. “The Back to School Jams bring the community together to pitch in and make sure the kids get the tools they need to make the upcoming school year a success.”

Over 1,200 public housing youth were treated to entertainment, food, dance, brand new books, and raffles. 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. A special acknowledgement is also given to CBFREE Los Angeles, a non-profit organization who provided entertainment for the events.

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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