



For Immediate Release:

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“Give Back With a Backpack” Returns to SJJCC on August 18 *Annual Packing Drive to Equip Long Island Students for Successful School Year*

East Hills, N.Y. (Aug. 13, 2025) – With the first day of school just around the corner, Sid Jacobson JCC is partnering with **Supplies for Success** for its annual **“Give Back With a Backpack”** event, taking place Monday, August 18, 10:30am-12pm, in East Hills.

Volunteers will pack 650 backpacks with essential school supplies, ensuring underserved children across Long Island can begin the year prepared, confident, and ready to learn.

“When these volunteers pack backpacks for children in need, they’re not just providing supplies—they’re giving hope, dignity, and opportunity,” said **Mindy Richenstein**, Founder and President of Supplies for Success. “By partnering together, we amplify the good we bring into the world, and the light we shine is brighter when it shines together.”

This effort is carried out as a day of service through Sid Jacobson JCC’s Center for Community Engagement, which empowers community members to give back through its three pillars: Volunteerism, Linda & Gerald Marsden Social Responsibility Pillar, and Nikki Schwartz Memorial Community Needs Bank.

Guided by our mission of *tikkun olam*—repairing the world—we mobilize volunteers of all ages to meet pressing local needs. Through this initiative, SJJCC will outfit children across Long Island with the supplies needed for a successful start to the school year.

United by their own shared commitment to helping fellow students and representing every grade level as volunteer captains, **Andi Bendett, Jordan Buslik, Baker Bendett, Brendan Bendett, Ryan Buslik, and Ollie Berg** expressed:

“Being captains has taught us what it means to work together for something bigger than ourselves. Supplies for Success is more than just an act of service—it’s a reminder of what we can accomplish as a team.”

Founded in 2002, Supplies for Success has provided more than 300,000 backpacks filled with age-appropriate supplies to disadvantaged students from pre-K through 12th grade before the first day of school, helping to level the educational playing field and promote equity in the classroom.

A generous donation of \$36 equips one child with a fully stocked backpack. Those wishing to make a contribution or volunteer can visit the following [link](#) for more information.

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About Sid Jacobson JCC

Sid Jacobson JCC (sjjcc.org) in East Hills provides a full range of cutting-edge recreational, health, fitness, educational, cultural arts, and social service programs. SJJCC promotes Jewish identity and provides a comprehensive program based on Jewish values, traditions, heritage, and culture, and is committed to enriching the lives of all individuals and families in its community. Where life flourishes.

“Like” the JCC on Facebook (facebook.com/sidjacobsonjcc) and “Follow Us” on Instagram (instagram.com/sidjacobsonjcc).

Sid Jacobson JCC is a beneficiary agency of the UJA Federation of New York.