

Operation Backpack® Makes a Real Impact!

Hello my name is Miguel and I am 12 years old. I would like to say thank you for the supplies and bookbag. I am happy that I was able to receive it before school started, and I was able to get the color I wanted.

We continue to hear wonderful feedback and endless "thank you's" direct from some of the **18,000 children** who walked into school on their first day with a new backpack full of supplies. Notes like this have been pouring in and we couldn't be more grateful for the support of our partners.

[VIEW PHOTOS](#)

Ensure the Holidays are a Time of Joy



Last year's cornucopia of gifts at our Bronx Early Learning Center.

We are gearing up for our two major gift drives of the holiday season. **Toys for the Holidays** provides two to three gifts to all children (infants to teens) living in our homeless and domestic violence shelters. It also provides gifts for children with developmental delays who attend our Bronx Early Learning Center. Our second major drive is **Burt and Barbara's Gifts of the Heart** which distributes gifts to older adults and veterans in our care who have no involved family and may be alone during the holidays.

[LEARN MORE](#)



A New York Winter's Eve

Our annual Gala, held at The Plaza on December 5 is Volunteers of America-Greater New York's largest and most important fundraiser of the year.

We are looking for special items for our live and silent auctions. Past auction items include leather jackets donated by John Varvatos and Theory, four Legends Suite tickets to a Yankees Game, and house seats to *Hamilton*.

[Get More Details](#)



Group Volunteer Opportunities

We offer year-round opportunities to stay involved. Host a luncheon or dinner for our vets in November to celebrate **Veteran's Day**. Make it a memorable experience with food, BINGO and raffle prizes!

Host a **Family Carnival!** Normalizing life for the children residing in our shelters helps them create happy memories. If you're looking for Halloween plans, join us in hosting an October party!

[Find More Opportunities](#)

[Partner Spotlight: Duane Reade/Walgreens](#)

Longtime Operation Backpack® sponsor **Duane Reade/Walgreens** held an in-store campaign this summer, which encouraged customers to donate to Operation Backpack® at checkout. They also donated 7,000 USB drives to go into the backpacks, large rolling cages that helped us transport filled backpacks to the loading dock at our Sort Space for shelters to pick up, and sent over 80 volunteers to help fill backpacks.



Donations Needed!

Fall is here! With the arrival of cooler weather, we are looking for donations of new **warm clothing** such as sweaters, sweatshirts, or scarves for both children and adults in our Programs. Contact Andrew at (212) 496-4307 for more information.



We are raising funds now for our **Hope and Hearth Holiday Food Voucher** campaign, so families in need can shop for and prepare their own holiday meal that is special to them.

[DONATE](#)

To learn more, contact:

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