

August 14, 2018
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey
1301 Springdale Road, Suite 200
Cherry Hill, NJ 08003
Tel. 856.751.9500
Email: toolsforschool@jfedsnj.org

[Photo](#); Caption: In 2018, Tools for School packed over 1,000 backpacks for students in-need. *Photo by Ilene Rosen / Tools for School.*

[More photos here.](#)

COMMUNITY TO GATHER TO PACK 1200+ BACKPACKS FOR TOOLS FOR SCHOOL

CHERRY HILL, NJ – Tools for School, a program of the Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey, that ensures more kids begin the school year with the proper tools they need to succeed, is proud to announce that they will be packing more than 1200 brand new backpacks full of school supplies in a community event near the Jersey Shore this Sunday.

The packing event is Sunday, August 18, 2019 at 10 a.m. at the Kensington Furniture, located at 200 Tilton Road, Northfield NJ 08224. The event should last about 2 hours.

Photos and broadcast b-roll will be available after the event.

All year, a **teen board of 20 middle and high school students have organized fundraising efforts.** Thanks to social media marketing, emails, dining events, and corporate sponsors, Tools for School has raised over \$15,000 during the second half of the 2017-2018 school year.

“Working with Tools for School is really rewarding” said Teen Board President **Montana Checkoff, 16.** “I know how confident you feel walking into the classroom on

the first day of school with a new backpack full of supplies, and I love that our organization is gifting that same feeling to another student.”

“Tools for School is a great example of local teens stepping up to make a difference in their community,” said Teen Board Past President of Tools For School **Andrew Rowan**, 18. “Teens are driving this organization at every level, from social media marketing to ordering the backpacks from a distribution company, to contacting the organizations to confirm pick-up and drop-off times.”

Teen Board members attend Cherry Hill High School East, Cherry Hill High School West, Moorestown Friends School, Eastern Regional High School, Henry C. Beck Middle School, and Rosa International Middle School.

In June, the teen board hosted a dodgeball tournament for their friends to help raise funds. Courtesy photos from the tournament for download are available [here](#).

Community members will form an assembly line to fill pencils, pens, calculators, colored pencils, erasers, scissors, highlighters, glue sticks, sharpeners, folders, notebooks, index cards, and more inside each backpack.

The backpacks will be distributed to local schools and organizations in need including, but not limited to:

- Boys and Girls Clubs of Camden
- Jewish Family Services, Margate City
- Cherry Hill Food Pantry
- Kellman Brown Academy, Cherry Hill
- Woodrow Wilson High School, Camden
- Nemours Pediatrics at Jefferson University Hospital
- Jewish Family Services of Atlantic County
- Jewish Relief Agency Bala Cynwyd
- Samost Jewish Family & Children’s Services.
- McGraw Elementary, Camden
- Saint Anthony of Padua School, Camden

About Tools for School

For the past 4 years Tools For Schools founders Lilly and Cole Checkoff have been assembling teams of kids to help with fundraisers to secure backpacks and school supplies. We also arrange events where hard-working volunteers help to fill those pack with the school supplies. Everything ranging from pens, pencils to glue, binders, folders and everything in between is carefully packed up into an organized ready to use backpack.

About Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey

The Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey began in 1922 when a group of 29 people with vision and compassion for others created an organization which would serve the Jews of Camden. From humble beginnings focusing on the delivery of food, clothing, and shelter, we have grown into a communal organization dedicated to promoting and enhancing Jewish life throughout Southern New Jersey. The Jewish Federation encompasses facilities that serve approximately 56,700 people in the Jewish community of Camden, Burlington, and Gloucester Counties.

Locally, the Jewish Federation and our family of agencies are serving the needs of the Jewish population, including early childhood, young adults, special needs, and seniors. The Jewish Federation family of agencies enhances the lives of thousands of people through counseling; food pantries; low- and moderate-income housing; social, cultural, and recreational programs; Jewish education; and Israel advocacy.

The Jewish Federation's global mission is accomplished through a network of overseas partners assisting Jews in more than 90 countries worldwide.

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August 19, 2017

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1301 Springdale Road, Suite 200
Cherry Hill, NJ 08003
Tel. 856.751.9500

Contact: andrewrowan128@gmail.com

[B-Roll](#) of Highlights. (1:09 seconds)

[SOT](#) Interview Clip with Co-Founder Lilly Checkoff (Age 18, Cherry Hill, 6 seconds)

[PHOTO](#) of group that packed the backpacks with all the backpacks.

[PHOTO](#) of Teen Board

[PHOTO](#) album from event.

[TIME LAPSE](#) from event.

RECAP OF PACKING EVENT FOR TOOLS FOR SCHOOL

Margate, NJ – Tools for School, a program of the Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey, that ensures more kids begin the school year with the proper tools they need to succeed, held their packing event where they packed 1,200 full of school supplies in Northfield, New Jersey on August 19. Just under 100 people were in attendance.

The event began with a speech from co-Founder Lilly Checkoff, 18, and Teen Board President Andrew Rowan, 17. Then the group began backing backpacks. Volunteers started on one end of the warehouse with an empty backpack and walked to the other end, stopping at each station to get school supplies along the way.

“Tools for School was so excited to see so many members of our community come out and pack 1,200 backpacks today,” said co-founder Lilly Checkoff, 18.

“The support we got from the community was outstanding,” said Teen Board President Andrew Rowan, 17. “Everyone was so nice to donate their time and money to ensure we accomplished our mission of providing students in need with the necessary school supplies they need to succeed.”

Community members formed an assembly line to fill pencils, pens, calculators, colored pencils, erasers, scissors, highlighters, glue sticks, sharpeners, folders, notebooks, index cards, and more inside each backpack.

All year, a teen board of 20 middle and high school students have organized fundraising efforts. Thanks to social media marketing, emails, dining events, and corporate sponsors, Tools for School has raised over \$14,000 during the second half of the 2017-2018 school year.

The backpacks are currently being distributed to local schools and organizations in need including, but not limited to: Boys and Girls Clubs of Atlantic City and Camden, Nemours Pediatrics at Jefferson University Hospital, Jewish Family Services of Atlantic County, Samost Jewish Family & Children's Service, Kellman Brown Academy (Voorhees, NJ), Park Lane Elementary School (Darby, PA), Saint Anthony of Padua (Ambler, PA), Police Athletic League of Philadelphia, Jewish Relief Agency Bala Cynwd, McGraw Elementary School (Camden, NJ)

Tools for School is looking forward to another great year of fundraising.

About Tools for School

For the past 4 years Tools For Schools founders Lilly and Cole Checkoff have been assembling teams of kids to help with fundraisers to secure backpacks and school supplies. We also arrange events where hard-working volunteers help to fill those pack with the school supplies.

Everything ranging from pens, pencils to glue, binders, folders and everything in between is carefully packed up into an organized ready to use backpack. Tools for School has packed more than 3,000 backpacks at various organizations throughout the NJ-PA area. The backpacks are have been distributed to local schools and organizations in need including the Boys and Girls Clubs of Atlantic City and Camden, Nemours Pediatrics at Jefferson University Hospital, Jewish Family Services of Atlantic County, Samost Jewish Family & Children's Service, Kellman Brown Academy (Voorhees, NJ), Park Lane Elementary School (Darby, PA), Saint Anthony of Padua (Ambler, PA), Police Athletic League of Philadelphia, Jewish Relief Agency Bala Cynwd, and McGraw Elementary School (Camden, NJ).

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throughout Southern New Jersey. The Jewish Federation encompasses facilities that serve approximately 56,700 people in the Jewish community of Camden, Burlington, and Gloucester Counties.

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August 7, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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[Photo](#)

COMMUNITY GATHERS TO PACK 1000+ BACKPACKS FOR TOOLS FOR SCHOOL

Margate, NJ – Tools for School, a program of the Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey, that ensures more kids begin the school year with the proper tools they need to succeed, is proud to announce that they will be packing more than 1000 brand new backpacks full of school supplies in a community event at the Jersey Shore.

The packing event is Sunday, August 19, 2018 at 10 a.m. at the Margate Municipal Building, located at 9001 Winchester Ave, Margate City, NJ 08402. Photos and videos will be available after the event.

All year, a teen board of 20 middle and high school students have organized fundraising efforts. Thanks to social media marketing, emails, dining events, and corporate sponsors, Tools for School has raised over \$12, 000 during the second half of the 2017-2018 school year.

Community members will form an assembly line to fill pencils, pens, calculators, colored pencils, erasers, scissors, highlighters, glue sticks, sharpeners, folders, notebooks, index cards, and more inside each backpack.

The backpacks will be distributed to local schools and organizations in need including, but not limited to: Boys and Girls Clubs of Atlantic City and Camden, Foundation of Jewish Day Schools, Sons of Israel, Nemours Pediatrics at Jefferson University Hospital, Jewish Family Services of Atlantic County, Jewish Relief Agency Bala Cynwyd and Samost Jewish Family & Children's Services.

Photo: In August 2017, Tools for School packed more than 850 backpacks.

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