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NEWS RELEASE

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DISTRICT ATTORNEY LYNNE ABRAHAM AND LOCAL PARTNERS DONATE SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR STUDENTS IN ANNUAL "TOOLS FOR SCHOOL" INITIATIVE

August 28, 2007---District Attorney Lynne Abraham announced today that her annual "Tools for School" initiative, sponsored by Citizens Bank, Power 99 FM, Philadelphia Business Journal and Abraham's Urban Genesis Foundation collected more than five tons of school supplies for children in Philadelphia. More than 60 Citizen volunteers sorted the supplies and stuffed two thousand logo-free backpacks and 250 shopping bags at the District Attorney's Office. The backpacks are being donated this week to various community agencies that will distribute them to families with children in elementary, middle, and high schools.

"The start of a new school year can be both an exciting and anxious time for children and their families," said Peg Marty, Executive Vice President and Director of Retail Banking for Citizens Bank. "Regrettably, not every parent can afford to equip their children with new school supplies. Because of the terrific partnership between Citizens Bank, District Attorney Lynne Abraham, the Philadelphia Business Journal and Power 99 FM, we were even more successful this year. As a result, Citizens Bank was able to double the number of backpacks we are donating."

In addition to the school supplies, a \$5,000 check was presented to the School District of Philadelphia on behalf of the Philadelphia Business Journal. "We are happy to present this check to the School District to support the program which helps so many children be prepared for school," said Lyn Kremer, Publisher of the Philadelphia Business Journal.

Between July 23, 2007 and August 10, 2007, the District Attorney's office gathered school supplies through collection bins in its office at 3 South Penn Square in Center City. Collection bins were also located at each of Citizens Bank's branches throughout the Philadelphia area. Clear Channel Radio Philadelphia hosted a radio-thon from August 2 through August 5, 2007, in Northeast Philadelphia with Power 99 FM "Hot Boyz" challenging listeners to come donate enough school supplies to fill an entire yellow school bus.

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“This program could not have succeeded without the support from the community,” said Loraine Ballard Morrill, News and Community Affairs Director for Clear Channel Radio Philadelphia. “Hundreds of people came out for our radio-thon to donate supplies. Their generosity really helped keep the momentum going throughout the event.”

“On behalf of the School District of Philadelphia, I would like to thank District Attorney Lynne Abraham, Citizens Bank, and Power 99 FM for donating school supplies to the School District, and the Philadelphia Business Journal for the money to purchase more,” said Tom Brady, Interim CEO of the School District of Philadelphia. “It is critical that every student start school this year with the necessary tools to be successful.”

“When people and corporations come together, great things can happen,” said Lynne Abraham, Philadelphia District Attorney. “Each year, as the collaboration of this initiative expands, we are able to collect and purchase supplies so that many more of our children are properly equipped to start the new school year. This year, through the efforts of our great partners, I am pleased to say that we will be helping thousands of students in Philadelphia.”

In addition to collecting school supplies from its employees and in its branches, Citizens Bank also provided 2,000 logo-free backpacks, or twice as many as in 2006.

In addition to the backpacks, students will receive full complement of supplies including rulers, composition books, glue sticks, crayons, scissors, erasers, binders, pens, pencils, calculators and more. The supplies are being donated this week to more than 20 grassroots community agencies and elected officials, such as:

School District of Philadelphia
Council President Anna C. Verna
Council member Jannie Blackwell
Council member James Kenney
State Representative Cherelle Parker
Paul “Earthquake” Moore
Ralph Wynder, Allegheny West Philadelphia
Sister Jean McGowan SSJ, President of LaSalle Academy
Theresa Diamond, Principal of LaSalle Academy
Sister Rose Martin RSM, Hope Partnership for Education
Father John McNamee, Pastor, St. Malachy’s School
Anne Marie Collins, Executive Director –Dreuding Center/Project Rainbow
The Lighthouse, North Philadelphia
Taller Puertorriqueno, North Philadelphia
Covenant House Pennsylvania, Germantown
AchieveAbility, West Philadelphia
Starfinder Foundation, Philadelphia
Urban Tree Connection, West Philadelphia
Point Breeze Performing Arts Center, West Philadelphia
Children’s Crisis Treatment Center, Philadelphia