



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

1515 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102
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www.phila.gov/dhs

Commissioner

CYNTHIA F. FIGUEROA

MEDIA ALERT

June 18, 2019

Contact:

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Media Alert

EVENT: The Backpack Challenge: Back to School Supplies Needed for Youth Living in Foster Care
DATE: Wednesday, June 19, 2019
TIME: 2 PM – 3 PM
PLACE: Achieving Independence Center 1415 North Broad Street, Suite 100
WHO: Mutha Knows, Radio Personality Power 99
Cynthia Figueroa, DHS Commissioner
Tom Harrington, Valley Youth House CEO
Youth Speaker
Sean Brace, Keynote Speaker

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Cameras are welcome for this event.

Backpack Challenge Seeks Donations of Back to School Supplies for Youth in Foster Care

The Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS) and Valley Youth House (VYH) will hold a Kick Off for the Backpack Challenge on June 19 at 2pm at the Achieving Independence Center, 1415 North Broad Street, Suite 100. The Backpack Challenge raises funds and collects essential back-to-school items for youth in foster care at the [Achieving Independence Center](#) (AIC) and across the Philadelphia area. With over 5,000 Philadelphia youth in foster care, the Backpack Challenge is crucial in ensuring that they are adequately prepared for high school and college this fall.

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THE PHILADELPHIA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS) is the county child welfare agency. We lead, support, coordinate and implement services to prevent and address child abuse and neglect; and operate juvenile justice programs for Philadelphia. www.phila.gov/dhs

VALLEY YOUTH HOUSE (VYH), founded in 1973, does more than just provide a home for Pennsylvania's vulnerable, abused and homeless youth. VYH partners with thousands of individuals each year to build a solid foundation for young people and their families. With dedicated housing, counseling, skills training, health, prevention and intervention services, VYH empowers resilient young people in establishing promising futures. For more information about Valley Youth House, visit www.valleyyouthhouse.org.