



Families of The Second Step Set for School

The Second Step staff and volunteers recently held our annual reunion BBQ and our 2nd Annual Backpack Drive for the families of The Second Step.



Thank you Merrill Lynch!

The gathering was bigger than ever. Thanks to the generosity of **Merrill Lynch**, more than 225 people attended, and we were able to give 120 children brand new backpacks filled with essential school supplies to ensure their success in school, whether they are starting kindergarten or headed off to college. Several moms starting college in the fall received their own backpacks, too! Representatives from collaborating agencies provided information and vital resources to our families, and we had scores of donated books for kids and moms to take home. It was a wonderful evening!



Kids Model New Backpacks

I wanted to share with you some memories from the day:

- A five-year-old girl, jumping up and down with delight as she picked out her first ever backpack - a pink Hello Kitty bag.
- A mom so overjoyed to see her 8th-grade son receive the supplies he needed and she could not afford; she hugged our volunteer while her son showed off his new backpack.
- A mom thrilled to be taking an Angelina Ballerina book for her daughter sharing with us "Angelina is her absolute favorite! She will be so happy!"

After dinner, kids played soccer, had their faces painted, participated in arts and crafts, and danced to the music of the DJ. Then, as the sun began to set, both mom and kids headed home with smiles on their faces and ready for school.



Annual Reunion BBQ

Watching, I was struck by the resiliency of the families we serve. A young boy, painted a picture of a rose for his mom, with the words "I love you." And two girls, a fourth grader and a second grader, sat side by side, and proudly told me that they are best friends for life, and that they had met at The Second Step!

Thank you for being a friend of The Second Step!

Warmly,

Roberta Rosenberg

P.S. We encourage you to help us to spread the word about the work of The Second Step. Please feel free to forward this email to others.

[Donate now](#) to support the work of The Second Step

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