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NEWS RELEASE/MEDIA ADVISORY

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OAKLAND HOUSING AUTHORITY AND ITS POLICE DEPARTMENT PROVIDE NEW BACKPACKS AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR OAKLAND CHILDREN

OHA NATIONAL NIGHT OUT FAMILIES GET SET FOR SCHOOL

(Oakland, CA) - All school age children who attended Oakland Housing Authority (OHA)'s 2010 National Night Out celebration were invited to receive free back-to-school supplies in a special event held at the Oakland Housing Authority Service Center on Friday, August 27, 2010.

Over 200 children received backpacks which contained a variety of school supplies that were specially stocked with elementary, middle and high school students in mind. Packs of bright crayons, a variety of pencils and pens and multi-tabbed spiral notebooks, were just some of the items specially selected by OHA employees for inclusion in the back packs. In addition, free books were distributed at the event as part of OHA's award-winning Children's Book Giveaway Program. This volunteer employee-driven program is designed to help build reading skills for those children who may have little or no access to books in their home.

"OHA's backpack and book program is a great way to help our families and their children get ready for school," said officer Malcolm (Jerry) Williams. "Every little bit can help and by giving students the basic supplies we give them another tool which will help them succeed."

OHA residents hosted 21 sites for the 2010 National Night Out block party: 16 family sites and five senior sites as part of the annual nation-wide event that encourages people to get to know their neighbors. The event fosters promote community safety and can help fight crime.

Coordinated by OHA staffers Marisela Duenes, Chanhta Oum and the Oakland Housing Authority Police Department, the OHA employees made a festive occasion of the backpack and school supply giveaway, with snacks and juice drinks for the kids. This is OHA's fifth event of its kind, which is funded in part by an asset forfeiture program, a national and state law enforcement program enacted by Congress in 1984.

Long recognized as one of the leading housing authorities in the nation, the Oakland Housing Authority (OHA) continues to be an innovator in the field of public housing. Currently, OHA provides housing for approximately 10 percent of Oakland's families, operating 3,160 public housing and project based section 8 units. Presently, 10,958 Oakland families, elderly and disabled rent with Section 8 vouchers. The average annual income of OHA families is about \$15,000.

For further information about Oakland Housing Authority's school supplies for children or its National Night Out programs, please call (510) 535-3169.

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