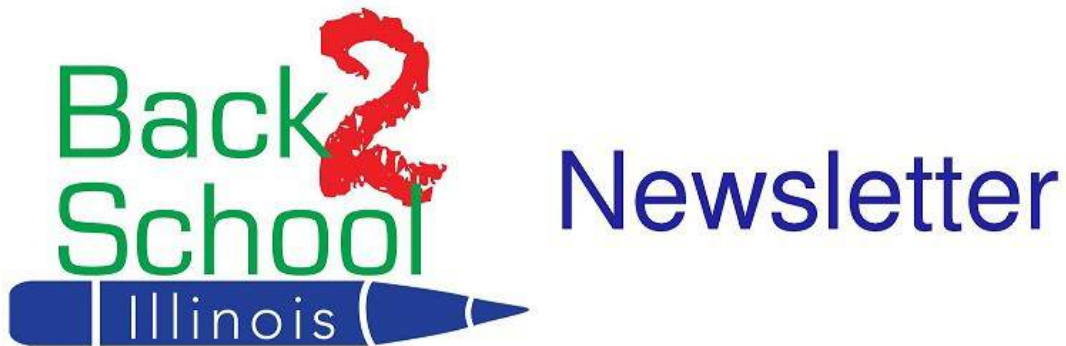


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## August 2016

# “BIG” Distribution & Activity Day Marks Great Success For B2SI

Kids, Kits, and Knights All Helped Make Our Annual Affair a Blast



At the Broadway Armory Park on August 9th we hosted our “BIG” Distribution & Activity Day Event, B2SI’s largest distribution of the year. This year’s event marked the 12th year we’ve distributed school supplies. It’s been amazing to

witness both the growth and evolution of from the 1st year in which we helped just 125 kids.

Semi-trucks full of boxes upon boxes of school supplies kept our wonderful volunteers busy and sweaty through the morning as they unloaded kits that would then be sent to underserved children throughout the state. As a result of the hard work of all our volunteers we were able to distribute almost 15,000 kits in just one day! This is something we are very proud of and appreciate all the help from each and every volunteer who helped us achieve this goal.



However, the day did not end there! In addition to our kit distribution, we hosted 400 children from area YMCAs and Boys & Girls Clubs for a day of activities meant to inspire creativity and get them excited to return to school in the fall. Activities included: aerobics and nutrition (courtesy of the Chicago Park District), science experiments (courtesy of American Chemical Society), “Knight Training” (courtesy of Medieval Times) and arts and crafts (courtesy of Kits for Kidz) along with an exotic petting zoo. We love this part of the day as it gives us a chance to have some fun with these children amidst all the hard work of loading and unloading our Back 2 School kits.

We want to send a BIG thank you to all those who helped make this event happen. A lot of work went into planning this event, but we could not have pulled it off without our dedicated support base and volunteers. An extra special thank you goes out to Professor Abel Galvan from the University of Illinois, whom is responsible for so many of his student helping out as he does for us every year. “Thank You” professor!



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## **Operation Homefront Hits Home**

### **Families of Armed Forces Come Together for School Supply Distribution Event**

Back 2 School Illinois partnered with Operation Homefront this summer to distribute school supply kits to underserved Illinois students as part of their Back 2 School distribution program. This initiative provides essential school supplies and resources to children of active and reserve members of all branches of the U.S. armed forces in an effort to meet the educational needs of students to help them to achieve both academic and future success. From National Guard Armories to an Air Force base as well as a Naval Station, BS2I has been able to reach 1,500 children in eight military communities across the state.

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## **Registration For Our POWER UP! Boot Camp is Open Now**

### **Get Fit, Stay Fit**





Our third annual POWER UP! Boot Camp is here to get children excited about healthy eating and regular exercise. On October 15th at West Lawn Park (4233 W. 65th St.) we will host a day of activities for children ages 6-12 that will challenge them physically as well as provide them with the knowledge on how to implement a proper diet into their lives. The event's motto of "Get Fit, Stay Fit" is meant to help children understand that a healthy lifestyle is about combining fitness with a proper diet. Each child that participates in the program will receive healthy lunch, a POWER UP! Boot Camp shirt, as well as a fitness/nutrition pack that will help keep them active long after the Boot Camp is over.

For those interested in more information, including how to register, [click here to learn more](#).

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## Chivalry in Action

### Medieval Times Staff Assembles Back 2 School Kits for Kids in need



It was a royal sight at the Medieval Times Dinner & Tournament "Build a Kit" event in Schaumburg on August 8th as staff, adorned swordsman, a princess and a king were on sight to lend a hand! In two hours the team successfully assembled 200 kits full of school supplies. "This is part of our Chivalry in Action campaign," said Matt Gill, marketing and sales manager for the 25-year-old jousting tournament and dinner venue. "We're always looking to give back to the community, so we partnered with Back 2 School Illinois. ... Kids will get great school supplies to start off the year strong." As part of their Chivalry in Action campaign, Medieval Times also participated at our "BIG" Distribution & Activity Day Event by running a Knights in Training activity for all the YMCA and Boys & Girls Clubs kids that attended.

## "Build a Kit" with Your Kid!

Butler Rubin Law Firm Hosts "Build a Kit" Event for "Take Your Child to Work Day"



Thinking outside of the box, the Butler, Rubin, Saltarelli, and Boyd law firm put a fun little spin on this "Build a Kit" event by having their children assemble the kits! Parents brought their kids to work for "Bring Your Child to Work Day," where they learned the importance of giving back by assembling the Back 2 School kits for students in the community.

## Demand for Back 2 School Program Carries Across State Borders

B2SI Heads to Wisconsin for a "Build A Kit"



Although it is our newest program, our "Build A Kit" program is gaining popularity faster than we expected. At the end of July, our long time sponsor, iStream Financial Services,



