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Back² School Illinois Newsletter

February 2016

Save the Date for 2016's Kickoff Event June 9th from 6:00pm-9:00pm at Galleria Marchetti



After much searching, we have finally set the date and picked a venue for our annual Back 2 School Kickoff Event. It took us a little longer this time around because of our decision to make it a dinner and cocktail reception instead of a luncheon. We made the change because many of our supporters indicated that attending a daytime affair was often challenging. The move will allow everyone to relax and enjoy a great night of festivities.

The location for this year's kickoff takes us back to Galleria Marchetti in the River West neighborhood of Chicago, which served as our site back in 2013. Tickets are \$150 each or \$1,200 for a table of 8. Cocktails and the Silent Auction run from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Dinner and the program are from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. If you or anyone you know is interested in volunteering for this event, email our Events Coordinator Kevin Carroll at kevincarroll@b2si.org. We are also seeking items for our Silent Auction so if you are interested in donating or helping us secure donated items, please let us know. More details to follow soon but make sure you mark your calendars today!

New Partnership with Howard Brown's Broadway Youth Center Announced

Vulnerable LGBTQ Youth Receive School Supplies



It's hard enough to be a teenager with all the physical and emotional changes to deal with so imagine how much more challenging it is for those individuals when they are struggling with their sexual identity and/or have others who struggle with their identity as well. LGBTQ Youth face unique issues at home, at school, and in their community, making services such as the Broadway Youth Center critical to provide them with a safe haven and a place where they can receive the support services they need. By providing them with school supplies, these teenagers will have one less challenge, one less burden, and the help to

improve their overall situation in life.

New Partnership with Catholic Charities

Austin Neighborhood Youth Center Receives Signature School Supply Kits



B2SI celebrated a new distribution partnership at the beginning of this month with Catholic Charities, which included a kit distribution at the Peace Corner Youth Center. The facility, located in the Austin neighborhood, acts as a safe haven for kids in the area. After-school activities are the main focus of Peace Corner, but weekend programs are slowly being implemented as the center gains more support. Peace Corner Youth Center aligns with our ideals of community and inclusion. This is just the first in a series of distribution events with Catholic Charities.

It's Time to Do Something Big For a School In Need

You Could Help a Whole School With One Small Task



Our annual “Win School Supplies For an Entire School” Contest is underway and this is your chance to help out a school of your choosing. How do you enter? All you have to do is complete a short application, available on our website, and write an essay about why your school deserves to win. For complete rules and an application, visit our website, www.b2si.org. All submissions must be postmarked by July 25, 2016. Two schools will be selected. Students will be surprised the first day of school with the announcement and receive their own Back 2 School kits.

It's Not Too Late to Submit a College Scholarship Application

Students Chosen Receive \$2,500 and Invite To Kickoff Dinner



We at Back 2 School are ready to sift through applications to find the 2016 winners for our College Scholarship launch. Each year we give out multiple \$2,500 scholarships, courtesy of Community Currency Exchange Association of Illinois and The Tufano Family. You can visit our website for a downloadable application and read through all the requirements for the program. Our application deadline is **April 1st** so don't wait too long to tell high school seniors about this opportunity.



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We like to keep those interested and involved in ICECF informed on what we are doing.

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