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**ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY TO GIVE FREE
BACKPACKS AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES TO CHICAGO
STUDENTS**



Chicago, Illinois – September 12, 2014 – As part of its worldwide campaign to distribute One Million Backpacks to students in need, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., (AKA) will hold a back-to-school event on September 12 where free backpacks and school supplies will be donated to the Chicago Public School District (CPS).

“As part of our commitment to academic excellence, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority will support the learning process by providing substantial support to give students the backpacks and supplies they need to be ready to learn,” said International President Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson. “From pencils and sharpeners to notebooks and folders, we will do our part to bridge the achievement gap among students of color and the economically-disadvantaged.”

Buckhanan Wilson and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority’s international leadership will distribute at least 1,000 donated backpacks and accompanying school supplies during the sorority’s annual mass committee meeting, held this weekend at the Hyatt Regency Chicago.

The sorority, headquartered in Chicago, selected that city for its inaugural donation drive because the need there is great. Significant portions of Chicago, particularly on the South and West sides, have poverty rates that are hovering near 60 percent.

The massive backpack campaign is part of the Alpha Kappa Alpha’s *Launching New Dimensions of Service* program targets, which place an emphasis on Educational Enrichment, among other social concerns. In response to this focus, AKA members will set a goal of collecting and distributing at least one million backpacks and school supplies over the next four years.

About Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated:

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated (AKA) is an international service organization that was founded on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C. in 1908. It is the oldest Greek-letter organization established by African-American college-educated women. Alpha Kappa Alpha is comprised of more than 265,000 members in 986 graduate and undergraduate chapters in the United States, Liberia, the Bahamas, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Germany, South Korea, Bermuda, Japan, Canada, and South Africa. Led by International President Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson, Alpha Kappa Alpha is

often hailed as “America’s premier Greek-letter organization for African American women.” For more information on Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and its programs, log onto www.aka1908.com.

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Statistic source: <http://chicago.cbslocal.com/2014/04/22/poverty-rates-in-many-chicago-neighborhoods-near-60-percent/>