



**NORTH WOODWARD  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**North Woodward Community Foundation Announces Partnership with The  
Avondale School District**

(TROY, MI) The North Woodward Community Foundation (the former Community Foundation of Troy) is pleased to announce the latest in a series of community improvement initiatives.

The Foundation, in partnership with the Avondale School District and the Meijer Grocery chain, has implemented a District-wide program called “Blessings In A Backpack”

The Blessings In A Backpack program provides students who are on the free or reduced fee lunch program with backpacks filled with enough food to provide them with 3 meals per day for the entire weekend.

The Blessings In A Backpack program, which began in Louisville Kentucky in July of 2005, has now been implemented at individual schools in more than 12 school districts nationwide. “The benefits of this program are increased test scores, improved attendance, reduced behavior issues and greater attention span from the students”, said Dr, George Heitsch, Superintendent of Avondale Schools. “By eliminating the risk factor of hunger, students are better able to prepare for their future by having the same opportunities as their peers”.

The Avondale School District, which includes students living in Auburn Hills, Bloomfield, Rochester Hills and Troy, has experienced a steady increase in the number of students who are eligible for the free or reduced fee lunch program over the last two years. "The economic down-turn has placed families in a crisis situation and the Avondale School District has shown vision by stepping forward to help protect the welfare of all their students by embracing this project", said Anju Brodbine, chairman of the Steering Committee.

"We are very excited to partner with Avondale Schools in this worth-wile project that is the first of it's kind in Michigan, and the first in the Nation to include an entire school district", said Tom Kaszubski, Executive Director of the Foundation.

Tax deductible donations can be made to help fund Blessings In A Backpack by contacting the North Woodward Community Foundation at 248-740-7600 or visiting the web-site at [blessingsinabackpack.mi.org](http://blessingsinabackpack.mi.org)

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