

City of Long Beach, City Auditor



Laura L. Doud
City Auditor

We've Got Your Back

On a warm and sunny Saturday in late August at the Farmers & Merchants Bank east branch parking lot, school aged children with bright smiles and wide eyes grabbed new backpacks and rushed from table to table filling them with folders, notebooks, pens, pencils and crayons. Grateful parents looked on while caring volunteers lent helping hands to ensure all supplies made it securely into their bags.

Knowing that no child should begin a school year without necessary supplies, two local churches, Temple Baptist Church and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, came together to sponsor the 3rd Annual We've Got Your Back backpack giveaway event providing 2,000 backpacks with supplies to Long Beach students in need of support as they headed back to the school year. These two organizations partnered on an amazing project to fill a need for children in our community.

Providing students with the school supplies they need has a profound impact on students, teachers and the learning experience. Excited children left the backpack giveaway event with tools to learn and do their best work.

This is an inspiring example of how organizations can



come together to make a positive, impactful difference in our City. Families with the greatest needs were able to give their children a strong start to their school year.

It was wonderful to see two faith communities initiate this project collecting donations and volunteering time. Though needed backpacks were distributed, much more happened through this service. Hearts were lifted, hope and enthusiasm were generated, bonds of affection were formed and unifying conversations erased lines of diversity. This brought the community together in the spirit of kindness, generosity and understanding. Let us carry this spirit of goodwill throughout the 2017-18 school year!