

New school year brings out local charity efforts

As students gear up for the new school year, area charities and businesses are too. Here are a couple of efforts launched recently that are looking for help.

■ Staples in La Jolla at 8657 Villa La Jolla Drive is among the stores participating in a national school supply drive, teaming up with DoSomething.org and the stars from ABC Family's hit show "Pretty Little Liars."

The program will benefit youth at the Boys & Girls Clubs of San Diego to equip them with school supplies.

Teens are being encouraged to collect school supplies and drop them off at their nearest Staples store through Sept. 1. Customers can also donate \$1 at any Staples store, with 100 percent of the proceeds benefiting San Diego County students in need.

By visiting www.staplesforstudents.org, teens can sign-up or get more information to take action.

■ **Promises2Kids** is holding its 10th Annual Backpack and Flash Drive. Local businesses, churches and community groups will host collection points throughout the community through Aug. 21. The goal is to collect at least 5,000 backpacks and flash drives, as well as other school supplies for foster kids — currently there are approximately 5,000 children in foster care in San

Diego.

The Backpack and Flash Drive culminates with a live drive from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Aug. 22 at Walmart in Kearny Mesa, 4840 Shawline. Bins will be located at the store for the public to drop off donations. Promises2Kids can also arrange for items to be picked up by Boyer Moving and Storage, a long-time partner of Promises2Kids.

For a wish list of items or a location in your community where you can make a donation, please visit www.promises2kids.org. To host a collection site or to volunteer, contact Susanne Torre at 858-427-1107 or Susanne@promises2kids.org.

■ On Aug. 6, 500 military children and their families will receive backpacks and school supplies from Operation Homefront at the Kearny Mesa National Guard Armory.

Every year, Operation Homefront Southern California partners with the community to show their support of service members and their families. Funding for the program was provided by the following, but not limited to, the county of San Diego on the recommendation of Supervisor Pam Slater-Price, Ford Motor Co. HD Supply and SD Deacon. In-kind donations were provided by various community including the La Jolla Golden Triangle Rotary Club.