



## Oakland nonprofit to donate 280 backpacks, school supplies to East Oakland elementary school

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By **Oakland Local Editorial Team**

With back-to-school quickly approaching, a parent's search for affordable school supplies for his or her child can be difficult and require a lot of time. Capture The Dream Inc., a Oakland-based nonprofit organization, plans to help with this time consuming task.

The organization has announced that it will distribute backpacks loaded with school supplies to all 280 students at Acorn Woodland Elementary School in East Oakland on Aug. 28 at 8:30 a.m. through its Sixth Annual DreamPack Campaign.

A recent survey by the 2010 U.S. Census American Community, found that at the start of the new school year, families are spending a large amount of money on school supplies. According to the survey, many students can't afford basic school supplies in Alameda County. Approximately 13.5 percent of the population in the county live in poverty. Add this with the fact that more and more government school budget cuts occur every year and what you have as a result is less and less supplies being purchased by parents. Not withstanding, basic school supplies, clothing and other necessities can cost up to hundreds of dollars per child per year.

The DreamPack Campaign by Capture the Dream Inc. was held from July through August of this year to raise funds in order to provide local school children with essential learning tools.

Acorn Woodland Elementary School, located at 1025 81st Ave., was chosen to have backpacks, full of school supplies customized by grade level, distributed based on an application process and the number of students in the government-subsidized free lunch program that exceeded the state average. This year, more than 25 applications were received.

Capture the Dream Inc. volunteers will be on hand at the elementary school to stuff the backpacks on Aug. 25 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. A Golden State Warriors coach and/or player will be present on Aug. 28 to distribute the backpacks.

For more information, contact Janine Lee, the founder and CEO of Capture the Dream Inc. at (510) 343-3635 or Tom Mierzwinski at (510) 681-6838.

### About Susan Mernit

Susan Mernit is the co-founder of Oakland Local. She is also a circuit rider for The Community Information Challenge, a program of The John S and James L Knight Foundation, a popular speaker and facilitator, and a consultant to media, non-profit and community organizations. Susan lives in North Oakland with a rescue dog named Cazzie, a little brown foster dog named Jada, and a yard in serious need of soil remediation. She is an aspirina gardener. a long-time blooger &

- Identity
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Capture The Dream will help students at Acorn Woodland Elementary School on Aug. 28 with what the need for a successful school year. A recent survey by the 2010 U.S. Census American Community, found that at the start of the new school year, families are spending a large amount of money on school supplies. Approximately 13.5 percent of the population in Alameda County live in poverty.

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