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Backpacks and school supplies provided to Dane County children

Submitted by Carin Morrell

Thursday, August 23rd, 2012, 1:15pm

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The first day of school will be a little brighter for some Madison families.

The annual Ready, Set, Go: Back to School event will take place on Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event will be hosted by The Boys & Girls Club of Dane County, the Madison Metropolitan School District, Latino Chamber of Commerce, and the Latino Support Network. It will take place at both Boys & Girls Club sites- Taft Street and the Allied Family Center, and Leopold Elementary School.

MMSD Superintendent Jane Belmore and Boys & Girls Club CEO, Michael Johnson will meet at the Allied Drive Boys & Girls Club to deliver backpacks to neighborhood families, said a press release.

“Thanks to Walgreens, Michaels, Shopko, Staples, the Fitchburg Police Department and many other community partners we are able to get our local kids off to school with a great start,” said Michael Johnson, CEO of the Boys & Girls Club of Dane County. “Having the supplies to do homework and participate in class can really be the key to success for our kids, and we’re very excited about partnering with the Latino community in order to reach more kids than we did last year.”

The annual event provided more than 400 backpacks last year. This year, more than 800 backpacks and school supplies will be given to local children.

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“We’d like to thank the Boys & Girls Club for partnering with us to make sure children are ready to start a great year of learning,” Superintendent Jane Belmore said. “This is exactly the type of collaboration that will enable us as a district and a community to together, improve achievement for all.”

The Boys & Girls Club of Dane County is a non-profit youth development organization that serves almost 2,000 young people every year. The club provides programs for children and also works with high school students to prepare them for college.

The Ready, Set, Go: Back to School event will also have activities designed to send Dane County youth back to school in style, said a press release. Children can receive haircuts and hairstyles as well as healthy living tips. Music, entertainment and food will be provided by community partners.

Transportation will also be provided from Bridge Lake Point and Badger Rock School to Leopold.

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