



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Buchanan District Library working with local partners to bring backpack giveaway to Buchanan

BUCHANAN, Michigan —Last August, the phone began ringing off the hook at the Buchanan District Library. The calls were from parents looking for free backpacks and school supplies for their kids.

“We pointed parents toward what we thought were good resources for this need, but later we learned there was a bit of a gap when it came to Buchanan kids. We decided to help fill that gap this year,” said Meg Paulette Perez, Library Director.

Together with Redbud Area Ministries and Buchanan Community Schools, the Library began planning for a backpack and school supply drive (and subsequent giveaway) for the following year. The Library applied for and received a grant from the Michigan Gateway Community Foundation to help supplement donations. The Youth Advisory Council at MGCF will also volunteer to assemble and distribute backpacks, along with Boy Scout Troop 541.

“It all came together pretty quickly,” said Wendy Chapman, Library of Things Coordinator at Buchanan District Library. “Now we need to get the word out to gather donations before the giveaway in August.”

Donations will be collected May 1 through July 1, 2024. A list of supplies needed can be found on this [Amazon Wish List](#), and donations can be shipped directly to the library or purchased at any store and dropped off at the following locations:

- Buchanan District Library
- Country Heritage Credit Union
- Honor Credit Union
- United Federal Credit Union
- Redbud Area Ministries

Donations can also be brought by students to any of the four Buchanan Community Schools buildings.

The Backpack Giveaway will take place on Thursday, August 1, 2024 at noon on the Buchanan Common. This is also the celebration of the end of Summer Reading at the Buchanan District Library, and the festivities will include bounce houses, a live children’s music performer, free snow cones, and more. Those who cannot attend this event can pick up a backpack any time after August 1 at the Library (while

supplies last). Backpacks will be available for kids attending Buchanan Community Schools (all grades). Families can apply for a voucher for a backpack from Redbud Area Ministries starting June 1, 2024. Eligible families must live in Buchanan or Galien, and show a record of their child's enrollment in Buchanan Community Schools. No backpacks will be given out without a voucher from RAM.

Questions about donations can be emailed to Library Director, Meg Paulette Perez, at m.paulette@buchananlibrary.org. Questions about applying for a voucher for a backpack can be emailed to redbudareaministries@yahoo.com.

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