

Kiwanis Aktion Club Service Project Submission
Project Title: "Backpacks of Hope"

Our Aktion Club came together in an incredible way this year to support children and families in our community as they prepared to go back to school. With compassion in our hearts and a goal in mind, our members launched a fundraiser by selling custom-designed t-shirts to our host organization. The fundraiser was a huge success — raising an inspiring \$1,650!

With the funds raised, club members took on the next phase of the project: shopping! Armed with school supply lists and big hearts, members and advisors went on a mission to fill as many backpacks as possible with everything a student would need to start the school year off strong. From notebooks and pencils to crayons, folders, glue sticks, and more — every backpack was thoughtfully packed with care, love, and dignity in mind.

Once packed and ready, the backpacks were delivered to several places where they would do the most good:

- A local public school serving students in need
- A nearby private school that partners with our club
- A women's shelter providing support for mothers and children in transition
- And to employees at our host organization who might be quietly struggling to provide for their families

This project was about more than school supplies. It was about hope. About making sure every child could walk into the classroom feeling confident, prepared, and valued. It was about letting families know that their community sees them, supports them, and wants to lift them up.

Our Aktion Club members took tremendous pride in every part of this project. They showed leadership, teamwork, and heart — from organizing the t-shirt sales to sorting and packing supplies, to delivering the backpacks with a smile. It was a beautiful example of what happens when people come together to serve with purpose and joy.

We believe the impact of this project will be felt long beyond the first day of school. It was a reminder that small acts of kindness — when done together — can create a wave of good that touches many lives.