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**A.R.C.H. AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM IN KENTWOOD
TO RECEIVE OFFICE DEPOT FOUNDATION DONATIONS
THROUGH NATIONAL ‘A DAY MADE BETTER’ PROGRAM**

Organization’s Afterschool Programs for Local Children Earn Recognition

Kentwood MI, February 16, 2015 – The Office Depot Foundation – the independent nonprofit foundation that serves as the charitable giving arm of Office Depot, Inc. – is preparing to make the day just a little bit better for A.R.C.H. After School Program in Kentwood through its national *A Day Made Better* program.

A Day Made Better recognizes Title I and other high-need elementary schools and teachers across the country for their dedication and the work that they do to inspire children to learn. In selected cities, the Foundation is expanding *A Day Made Better* to support local nonprofit organizations that provide afterschool programs.

On Wednesday, February 18, at 3:30 p.m., a group of associates from the OfficeMax store in Kentwood will visit A.R.C.H. After School Program’s afterschool program location at Endeavor Elementary, 5757 East Paris Avenue to present a \$1,000 donation along with school supplies, children’s books, backpacks with school supplies and other essential items for the organization’s teachers and students.

“Across the country, nonprofit organizations complement the work of schools and teachers by offering a safe and enriching experience for children between the end of the school day and the time that they are picked up by their parents,” explains Office Depot Foundation President Mary Wong. “We are pleased to support A.R.C.H. After School Program as part of our ongoing efforts to serve children, families, and communities around the world.”

The organization’s management team is expected to participate along with teachers and students. Also scheduled to take part in the presentation are Mayor Stephen Kepley and Lorraine Beloncis, Assistant Director Parks and Recreation, from the City of Kentwood and Bob O’Callaghan, President/CEO from the Wyoming-Kentwood Chamber of Commerce. Tim Rea,

Office Depot Foundation Board Member and Executive Vice President & Chief Marketing Officer for Office will represent the Foundation.

The donated supplies and other items come from the Office Depot Foundation's [Caring is Sharing Product Donation Program](#) as well as from vendors and suppliers. All of the supplies and books were assembled by the Foundation's strategic partner, Feed the Children, which packaged the items into special *A Day Made Better* boxes with the help of its volunteers.

A Day Made Better donation presentations took place in local communities throughout the United States in the fourth quarter of 2014 and will continue through the first quarter of 2015. More than 1,700 schools were invited to participate in the program.

The mission of the Office Depot Foundation is Listen Learn Care – and one of its key strategic priorities is “giving children tools to succeed in school and in life.” *A Day Made Better* aligns with this priority, which also encompasses the Foundation's signature National Backpack Program – which has helped more than 3.3 million deserving children since 2001 – along with its Dream UP! Career Exploration Program (in collaboration with *USA TODAY*) and its anti-bullying programs.

To learn more about the Office Depot Foundation, visit www.officedepotfoundation.org.

About the Office Depot Foundation

The Office Depot Foundation is an independent foundation – tax exempt under IRC Sec. 501(c)(3) – that serves as the independent charitable giving arm of Office Depot, Inc. In keeping with its mission, Listen Learn Care®, the Foundation supports a variety of programs that give children tools to succeed in school and in life; build the capacity of nonprofit organizations through collaboration and innovation; and help communities prepare for disasters, as well as recovering and rebuilding afterwards. For more information, visit www.officedepotfoundation.org.

About A.R.C.H. After School Program

Kentwood Public Schools and the Kentwood Parks and Recreation Department have collaborated to offer the A.R.C.H. after school program. The A.R.C.H. (Academic enrichment, Recreation and the arts, Community and family services, Healthy Relationships) Programs are free and made possible through a 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant and sponsored by the Michigan Department of Education. The A.R.C.H. Program activities will focus on academics, health, wellness, and recreation/leisure education. These activities will be offered to children, family, and community members throughout the year. For more information, visit

<http://www.kentwoodps.org/ourschools/crossroadsalternativeeducation/programsandactivities/archprogram/>

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