



The annual Give a Kid a Chance Back to School Bash, held in two locations on the same day, hosts thousands of guests; including the 2500 registered children, non-school age siblings, parents, and hundreds of volunteers. It takes over 500 volunteers to bring the back to school event to fruition. Preparation begins months before the actual event day: picking up and sorting donated clothes, working with local churches, civic organizations and businesses to pack and collect the 2000 donated backpacks, working with baseball teams, vacation bible school classes and scout troops to pack the additional 500 backpacks needed. The delivery and set up at each event location take hours and many more volunteers working in close contact.

In effort to follow current recommendations to keep us **all** safe during the COVID-19 health crisis, the offerings of this year's Give a Kid a Chance back to school event will be modified.

On Saturday July 18, 2020, at Canton First Baptist Church in Canton and Hillside United Methodist Church in Towne Lake, there will be a backpack distribution only. This will be a drive through distribution only as no other services will be available this year. Families are asked to register their children in advance so we can be adequately prepared. The registration link can be found on the Give a Kid a Chance website. The registration process will give families the opportunity to select their pick-up location and the appointment time will be emailed to the family a week before the event.

The current crisis has put many families in challenging circumstances creating an even greater need for assistance in making sure children are prepared for a new school year. If you are able, please make a monetary donation to assist with the purchase of school supplies or donate filled backpacks. The supply list for elementary school and middle/high school backpacks can be found on the Give a Kid a Chance website, along with a PayPal donation button.

It is heartbreaking not to be able to interact with the children and see them enjoy the time spent with their family as they shop for school as we have in the past, but we pray that next year will be COVID-free and we can once again be together.