

Donate backpacks for kids across the globe

During Multnomah Days, drop off a backpack full of school supplies at Indigo Traders for the Global Backpack Project.

Launched by Indigo Traders owners Samir Naser and Karla Bean last year, the project hopes to give children across the globe access to essential school supplies.

"We want to help children feel prepared for school," said Naser, owner of the home textiles store located in Multnomah Village. "We also want to help kids feel positive about learning and themselves."

During the last six years, Naser and Bean have made numerous trips to the Middle East to buy goods for their stores. During each trip, they have witnessed the devastating effects of a war-torn environment on that region's children. Daily conflict continues to disrupt these children's lives in tragic ways, making it difficult for them to attend school, let alone feel hopeful about the future.

Global Backpack Project seeks to make a difference in the lives of these children. Through its first backpack

drive last year, GBP delivered nearly 100 backpacks filled with school supplies, collected from the local community, to school children in Jordan. The project plans to expand to countries in Africa this year. The project also donates a portion of its packs and supplies to local children in need through the Neighborhood House in Multnomah Village.

Tax-deductible donations of new backpacks and basic school supplies are accepted at Indigo Traders and Indigo Bath located at 7881 and 7878 S.W. Capitol Hwy. Packs can be dropped off during the Aug. 15 Multnomah Days street fair or Sept. 4 First Friday in the Village or anytime it is convenient.

Suggested school supplies to include in the packs are pencils, pencil sharpeners, erasers, pens, simple calculators, toothbrushes, dental floss and band aids.

Global Backpack Project partners with Collaborative for International Children's Art and Nonprofits (CI-CAN), a local nonprofit organization connecting the world's children through art and culture.