

## PRESS RELEASE



### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 20, 2025

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### **Southbury Women's Club's Operation Backpack 2025 to provide school supplies for children of Southbury families in need.**

SOUTHURY – With the last day of school barely behind us, *Southbury Women's Club's Operation Backpack* committee is already preparing for the new school year.

Working in close partnership with Southbury Social Services, Operation Backpack annually provides school supplies for the children of struggling Southbury families who have applied and qualified for assistance. A list is compiled of participating students, along with their school and grade, identified only by a family number in order to maintain confidentiality. School supply lists are collected from area schools, then shopping lists are created by cross referencing the two. The community is invited to help by purchasing items from an Amazon Wishlist. Committee members then purchase any remaining supplies, sort, label, assemble, and finally deliver backpacks and totes filled with all the supplies each child will need to begin their school year equipped similarly to their peers. *Mary Silverman, Southbury Social Services Director* shared, "One of the things I admire about the Women's Club is how much time and energy they invest in making sure the children are not identified as receiving assistance among their classmates...ensuring they are treated with dignity and respect. The look of joy on the children's faces and the relief on their parents (and/or guardians) {faces} at the distribution is truly telling of how crucial this program is to our community."

We extend special thanks to Connecticut Community Foundation and Midd-South Mustard Seed Fund for selecting Operation Backpack as a grant recipient. *Kathy Taylor, Esq., President and CEO of Connecticut Community Foundation* commented, "Basic back to school supplies are a substantial and growing expense for so many local families – anywhere from \$80 to \$100 per year or more. For students experiencing poverty or homelessness, it's nearly impossible for them to buy everything they need to start the school year on the right foot. We enthusiastically support Operation Backpack because we want every child to have everything they need to boldly and confidently go to school, ready to learn, thrive and succeed."

Those wishing to learn more about these generous organizations, support us in this worthy cause, and follow Operation Backpack's progress this summer may visit our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/operationbackpacksouthbury/> . Members of the community are also invited to learn more about all of the good that Southbury Women's Club does for our community by visiting our website: <https://southburywomensclub.org/> and our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/southburywomensclub>.

*Southbury Women's Club is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization dedicated to serving our community through various fundraising events and activities such as CT Arts & Eats, Operation Backpack, Southbury Turkey Trot 5k & Kid's Fun Run, and An Evening with Santa. As a result of the collaborative efforts of our dedicated members, supporters, and sponsors since 2001, SWC has donated over \$1.1M to local charities, scholarships and families in need with approximately 75% of all gifted funds being distributed within Southbury.*

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