

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Southbury Women's Club's Operation Backpack 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 hard at work preparing for next 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 spreadsheet 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 either purchasing needed items from an Amazon Wishlist, or by making direct donations on our website. Committee members then shop, sort, label, assemble, and finally deliver the appropriately filled backpacks and totes to Southbury Social Services, anonymously tagged for private distribution.

Debbie Broadwater, Southbury Women's Club President shared, *"In working with Southbury Social Services, our Operation Backpack is an important program in our club where we aim to provide a wonderful start to the school year to students of needy families in Southbury by donating school supplies. Our members work very hard to ensure that children who will receive school supplies are not identified as receiving assistance in order to preserve their dignity. Through this program, we hope to lighten the load for local families so that all children in our town, regardless of their family's financial situation, can walk into school feeling proud, ready, and supported."*

Southbury Women's Club Founding Member and Board Advisor Lorie Grabowski commented, *"As SWC celebrates our 25th Anniversary this year, I can say as a founding member that I'm very proud of our work over the years. While staying true to our goal of providing for basic needs in our community, school supplies are essential to student success and this program has been fulfilling that need, too. We live in a very generous town. I'm grateful to all the business owners that have supported us along the way. SWC would not have made it this far without the support of those sponsors and of the people that attend our events, run our races, and generously donate when we put the call out. "*

We'd like to extend special thanks to Midd-South Mustard Seed Fund for selecting Operation Backpack as a grant recipient, and to New Morning Market for partnering with SWC Operation Backpack for their Round Up for a Cause social responsibility initiative from July-September 2026.

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 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, and Southbury Turkey Trot 5k & Kid's Fun Run. As a result of the collaborative efforts of our dedicated members, supporters, and sponsors since 2001, SWC has donated over \$1.18M to local charities, scholarships and families in need with approximately 80% of all gifted funds being distributed within Southbury.

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