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## **STAPLES Business Depot's community@work Results Demonstrate Canadians Helping Students and the Environment**

School Supply Drive and Recycle for Education programs most successful ever, raising more than **\$600,000**

**Wednesday, September 12, TORONTO** –STAPLES Business Depot and its customers helped many young Canadians, who would otherwise be struggling to start the school year on the right foot. Through the company's new community@work initiative, much-needed donations were provided to schools and kids across Canada.

A survey conducted by STAPLES Business Depot this summer found Canadian parents pay an average of about \$1,300 per student per year for clothes and supplies. The survey also found individual teachers go out of pocket up to \$500 per year for basic classroom supplies.

"The research proved there was a need to develop a wide-scale community giving program that could effectively reach out and help," says Steve Matyas, president, STAPLES Business Depot. "We know there are many schools that deserve a helping hand. That's how community@work was born."

Launched this year, community@work is a company-wide community giving program that focuses on three core areas: environment, education and entrepreneurship. The School Supply Drive and Recycle for Education are just two of the programs that were developed in response to parents and schools struggling to provide the basics for community classrooms. STAPLES Business Depot encouraged customers to make in-store donations of school supplies or cash through its annual School Supply Drive, held in stores across the country between August 11 and September 9, 2007. This year's School Supply Drive was more successful than ever, raising over **\$300,000**.

"Customers have been picking up an extra package of pens to help those who need a hand and they've been dropping off their used ink and toner cartridges to help the environment and their schools at the same time," adds Matyas. "We can all be proud knowing we made a difference to those in need."

Recycle for Education is an ink and toner recycling program where customers are encouraged to drop off their used cartridges at any store location. For every eligible cartridge collected, STAPLES Business proudly donates \$1. This year **\$450,000** will be distributed amongst registered schools across Canada.

As a result of the very generous donations made by STAPLES Business Depot customers and the following vendor partners: Acme, Avery, BIC, Elmer's, Fiskars, Sanford, Hilroy and Winnable, many students and schools are returning to class this year with much-needed supplies.

### **About STAPLES Business Depot**

STAPLES Business Depot was founded in Toronto in 1991. It is Canada's largest supplier of office supplies, business machines, office furniture and business services for the small business and home office customer. The company is an everyday low price retailer. The chain operates stores in all provinces across Canada under the banners STAPLES® Business Depot™ and BUREAU EN GROS™. The company has over 13,500 employees serving customers through more than 273 office superstores, catalogue, and e-commerce. STAPLES® Business Depot™/BUREAU EN GROS™ is committed to making shopping easy by offering customers three ways to shop - online, by catalogue and in-store. More information is available at [www.staples.ca](http://www.staples.ca).

### **About Staples**

Staples, Inc. invented the office superstore concept in 1986 and today is the world's largest office products company. With 69,000 talented associates, the company is committed to making it easy to buy a wide range of office products, including supplies, technology, furniture, and business services. With 2005 sales of \$16.1 billion, Staples serves consumers and businesses ranging from home-based businesses to Fortune 500 companies in 21 countries throughout North and South America, Europe and Asia. Headquartered outside of Boston, Staples operates more than 1,800 office superstores and also serves its customers through mail order catalog, e-commerce and contract businesses. More information is available at [www.staples.com](http://www.staples.com).

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