



# The CedarWood Report



Fall 2017

Volume: 5 Issue: 4

## CedarWood Celebrates Back to School 2017

**Back to School!** Typically an exciting time for children to receive new clothing and school supplies as they anticipate reuniting with classmates after several months apart. However, this time of year can be stressful and worrisome for parents whose budget does not include any extras beyond the basics of rent, food and utilities. This year, CedarWood was privileged to offer help to families who struggle to provide such extras.

During this year's Back to School planning stages, we discovered that more than 15 community organizations and churches, plus all 7 school districts in our local area were already poised to meet the need for free school supply giveaways. So rather than reproduce what was already being done in the community, CedarWood compiled all the existing opportunities and created a *Back to School Information Table* designed to work with parents one-on-one to secure what was needed for their children. With school and area-specific informational flyers and applications in hand, our Pantry parents were able to obtain everything for their children's back-to-school needs, whether it was registering for a free backpack and school supplies or providing locations, dates and times for free haircuts, health screenings and other family services. In addition, some families who were new to CedarWood in the fall were delighted to receive backpacks and supplies directly from us, since they had missed out on the community events during the summer.

Parents also took advantage of our Coat and Clothing Closet to obtain school clothing for their children. Every week we saw moms and dads going upstairs to search our clothing racks for just the right items for their child. It is

always a joy to see kids excited to receive something "new" to start out the school year!

One great area of need not addressed locally was new undergarments. This is likely something not normally included monthly budgets of at-risk families. CedarWood was able to fill this gap! We registered 67 Pantry children to receive new underwear and socks prior to the start of the school year, along with 45 additional children already in our Backpack Kids weekend food program.

Another highlight was an event on August 19<sup>th</sup> when CedarWood partnered with other Christian organizations to provide back-to-school help for children in Sultan and Goldbar, WA, an area of incredible need. CedarWood provided every child in attendance new socks and underwear, while other groups gave away free backpacks, school supplies, clothing, and shoes. Free haircuts were also offered. A total of 179 children, kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade received help that day! Many of these same children are also on our Backpack Kids Program. What a blessing to be able to provide additional support for these precious ones!

All together, we were able to help 291 children with new undergarments and all our Pantry families were assisted in obtaining backpacks and school supplies.

We give thanks to God for His grace and blessing over CedarWood, and we thank YOU, our partners and friends who prayed, who volunteered, and who supported us financially out of loving hearts for children and families in need. God is doing a great work that we pray will one day bear eternal fruit. This is yet another reason to celebrate this special Back to School season!



CedarWood International is a division of *The World For Jesus Ministries*

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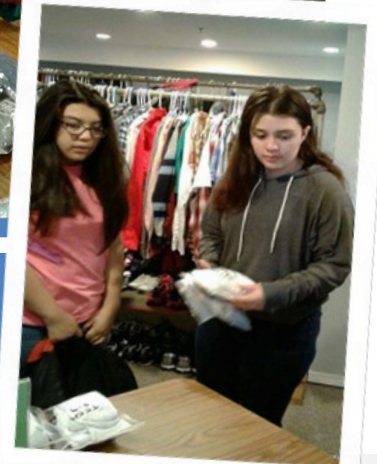
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## GOLDBAR BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT



## CEDARWOOD PANTRY BACK TO SCHOOL GIVEAWAY



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## Get Involved!

CedarWood International needs YOUR help to build stronger families! Consider donating money, food, or even volunteer your time. Monetary donations are tax-deductible. Please write checks to World For Jesus Ministries (WFJM) and mail to the address on Page 1. Please notate "CedarWood" in the memo section of your check. Online donations also accepted at <http://worldforjesus.org/ministries>, just click the "CedarWood International" donate button to add your donation to the cart. THANK YOU!