



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Yonkers “Backpack to School” Drive Hits the Jackpot with a Donation of 300 Backpacks from Empire City Casino

Yonkers, New York - Summer has flown by in typical fashion and parents and students are gearing up for the beginning of the school year. For most, that means new clothes, shoes, and lots of school supplies. But for many, getting the school supplies their children need to start the year off right can be a financial burden.

According to statistics provided by the National Retail Federation, the average parent spends hundreds of dollars on back-to-school items, including \$101.18 on school supplies, \$355.76 on clothing and shoes and \$212.35 on electronics.

To help families and students in need, the City of Yonkers is hosting its fourth annual “Backpack to School” drive to collect school supplies for elementary students who need them. That initiative just received a huge boost with the donation of 300 new backpacks from **Empire City Casino**.

That’s not the only boost New York State schools and teachers receive from Empire City, the Yonkers casino and raceway generates nearly \$300 million annually for state education. In the past 8 years operating as a casino, the property has generated over \$2.3 billion that has gone directly to fund education in New York.

“Families with children returning to school have a heavy financial burden at this time of year, and it’s important that the community lend a helping hand,” said Empire City’s president, **Tim Rooney**. “We’re proud of the funds we generate each year to support teachers and students across the state and encourage all who are able to do what they can to support the Backpack to School Drive.”



For more information on the “Backpack to School” program and drop off locations, visit www.cityofyonkers.com/government/mayor-s-office/initiatives/backpack-to-school-drive.

About Empire City Casino at Yonkers Raceway:

Empire City Casino, one of the largest entertainment and gaming destinations in the northeast, features 5,300 of the hottest slots, electronic craps, roulette, baccarat and sic bo; year-round harness racing & International simulcasting; live entertainment including the best party, tribute and Latin bands, comedy, & more. A plethora of dining options will satisfy even the most discerning palate with Italian cuisine at *Nonno’s Trattoria*; trackside dining with live betting at *Empire Terrace Restaurant*; and convenient delicious options at the International Food Court or Lil’ Cocina. A new \$50 million expansion added *Dan Rooney’s*, a high-energy sports bar, and *Alley 810*, a craft cocktail lounge rounds out the entertainment options with retro bowling lanes. Empire City Casino at Yonkers Raceway is located at 810 Yonkers Avenue (off I-87 at Central Avenue) Yonkers, NY, Westchester County, open seven days a week from 10:00am to 6:00am. Visit www.empirecitycasino.com or call 914.968.4200 for information.

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