



## Delaware House of Representatives House Majority Caucus

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### **REP. KEELEY DISTRIBUTES BACKPACKS TO STUDENTS AT VARIOUS WILMINGTON COMMUNITY CENTERS**

*Program provides 350 backpacks for underserved children*

WILMINGTON – With the school year starting in just a few weeks, Rep. Helene M. Keeley has been busy handing out hundreds of back-to-school backpacks to children at various community facilities throughout the city of Wilmington, and Wednesday’s visit to First Tabernacle Church of God and Saints of Christ was no exception.

Rep. Keeley, D-Wilmington South, handed out about 50 backpacks to kids at the 7<sup>th</sup> Street church on Wednesday morning, one of six stops throughout her district to give out the supplies. The backpacks are designed for students in kindergarten through fifth grade and include a pouch containing a ruler, crayons, a glue stick, a pen, a pencil, a pencil sharpener and an eraser.

The program is the result of a partnership between the Office Depot Foundation and the National Foundation for Women Legislators. Rep. Keeley is the Delaware state director of the NFWL.

“A quality education is the most important tool we can provide to our children to give them the best opportunity to succeed in tomorrow’s economy,” Rep. Keeley said. “With the economic difficulties many families are facing right now, parents are being forced to cut back on many expenses and make difficult choices between food, clothing and school supplies. I hope that by providing these school supplies to those children in need, we play a small part in easing that burden and giving kids a good start to a new school year.”

The children receiving backpacks Wednesday at the Church of God and Saints of Christ earned their supplies – and a free lunch complete with water ice – by participating in a community cleanup through the church’s Youth Intervention Program, said volunteer coordinator Arnold Hurtt. Earlier that morning, the kids joined adults to clean up nearby streets.

“I hear a lot of parents say they have to choose between school supplies and new clothes for their kids,” Mr. Hurtt said. “This contribution from Rep. Keeley is a blessing to the families. The best

part is that the kids know they did something positive to earn these backpacks. It builds pride in themselves and their community.”

Rep. Keeley also distributed backpacks to Latin American Community Center, Hicks-Anderson Community Center, Westside Neighborhood Coalition, Dare-to-Care and Woodlawn Community Coalition, handing out a total of 350 backpacks throughout Wilmington.

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