

July 8th, 2010

Dear Community Members,

Each year, The Lebanese & Arab Social Services Agency continuously strives to assist immigrant families in easing the challenges associated with settlement and integration. This is achieved by delivering many programs and services supported by the governments of Canada and Ontario that help new immigrants smoothly integrate into their new community. As a result we have seen many lives changed for the better.

One example of LASSA's efforts to facilitate the transition is our back pack initiative. **Since 2006 the agency has distributed over 500 backpacks and school supplies** and this has helped ease the financial burdens associated with school preparation. Such an endeavour can only be achieved through your generosity and the support of community agencies like Child and Youth Friendly Ottawa (CAYFO).

Each year many newcomers are affected by rising costs of clothing and other supplies to prepare our youth for the school year. Today you have the opportunity to positively affect the lives of school bound children. We thank you in advance for your participation and we look forward to receiving your donation (suggested items below) or cash contribution (charity receipts for cash donations can be issued upon request for donations of \$35 or more). The back packs will be distributed to families during the last week of August, 2010.

If you decide not to donate to LASSA's backpack initiative then we strongly urge you to support other community activities that gear their efforts to assisting youth integrate properly into school, to which LASSA will be equally grateful.

Sincerely yours,

Fred Awada, Executive Director
Lebanese & Arab Social Services
Agency of Ottawa

N.B . Items to consider:

Backpacks in all sizes, pencils, ruler, pencil crayons, sharpener, papers, binders, pens, geometry set, glue, scissors, pencil case, eraser, locks.