



## KARINA'S BACKPACK PROJECT

### **KARINA'S BACKPACK PROJECT DONATES OVER 7,700 BACKPACKS TO FULLERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOLS IN 1ST YEAR OF PARTNERSHIP.**

[Karina's Backpack Project \(KBP\)](#), fiscally sponsored by the Joy of Sharing Foundation and a project implemented by [Dreams for Schools](#), will be providing Fullerton School District (FSD) students with backpacks and supplies for the new school year for the first time. In 2022, Karina and the team are excited to donate over 7,700 backpacks filled with school supplies to all 9 Title I schools in the Fullerton School District, along with several non-Title I schools. Any remaining backpacks and school supplies will be distributed throughout FSD based on individual student needs and availability.

"The Fullerton School District is very excited to partner with Karina's Backpack Project to help kickoff the 2022-23 school year. This is such a wonderful organization with great vision and an inspirational story; to be chosen by KBP is such an honor! Furthermore, it is a tremendous benefit to our students and families to receive backpacks filled with school supplies. A backpack is not only a place for students to put their learning materials, but it also represents responsibility and ownership. Students can be proud of how they use, manage, and organize their backpacks to plan for their school day," Dr. Helene Morris, Director of Administrative Services.

Karina, an Orange County teenager, fueled by her passion to create community connections created the project in late 2018 to provide families with kids in elementary and middle schools backpacks, supplies, resources and services for a successful school year ahead. In the first year of KBP in 2019, Karina's effort helped provide 5,500 backpacks with school supplies, groceries, haircuts and food to students and their families.

In 2020, Karina's Backpack Project (KBP) has partnered with Dreams for Schools (DFS) to have DFS be the official implementation partner of the project. DFS' Executive Director, Nithin Jilla, has mentored Karina since she began the project and helped connect her to the community. Together, in 2020, Karina and the Dreams for Schools team shifted the strategy to work directly with partners and schools and distribute 15,000 backpacks to local school districts and partners. They also started a Holiday program adopting families and kids and provided gifts to 1000 children to bring joy during the holiday season. In 2021, Karina's Backpack Project efforts continued with the distribution of another 15,000 backpacks and school supplies to students Karina received the Outstanding Youth Award at the Association of Fundraising Professionals' (AFP) National Philanthropy Day event.

"Service and education are important to me. I know that I've been blessed with opportunities and want to do my part to ensure that students in Fullerton School District have the same opportunities and are set up for success. I want students to dream big and feel prepared!" - *Karina Tarsadia, Founder of Karina's Backpack Project.*

To learn more about Karina's Backpack Project, visit [karinasbackpackproject.org](http://karinasbackpackproject.org). For any media inquiries, please email Nithin at [nithin@dreamsforschools.org](mailto:nithin@dreamsforschools.org).