



## *News Release*

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For Immediate Release

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### **VOA Southeast Launches Annual Operation Backpack® 2020**

**Mobile, AL (July 6, 2020)** – July 6<sup>th</sup> marks the beginning of VOA Southeast’s (VOASE) **Operation Backpack® 2020**. Operation Backpack® is a way for individuals, church groups, civic organizations, local businesses, and others to join together to provide necessary school supplies to equip at-risk children for the upcoming school year. VOASE works with the Mobile County Department of Human Resources (DHR) and local not-for-profit organizations to provide essential school supplies to children who would otherwise be without. Over the past 9 years, Operation Backpack® has provided supplies to over 5,000 children. “There are many children who would start the first day of school without even a pencil.” said Wallace Davis, President and CEO of VOASE, “This program enables us to give every foster child a backpack and enough supplies to get them through the first part of the school year. It is our mission to reach and uplift all people, especially children.”

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, VOA is requesting **monetary donations be made at [www.voase.org](http://www.voase.org)**. Checks can also be mailed to VOASE’s corporate office at 1204 Hillcrest Road, Mobile, AL 36695, attention Operation Backpack®. **Prefilled backpacks will be ordered and shipped** directly to DHR and other community partners, keeping minimal touches to school supplies to ensure the safety of our staff as well as the children receiving the backpacks. In addition to school supplies, backpacks will also include hand sanitizer.

For more information contact Janet Hyde at [jhyde@voase.org](mailto:jhyde@voase.org).

### **About Volunteers of America Southeast**

VOA Southeast (VOASE) began serving the community in 1980 through the operation of three group homes for people with developmental disabilities. A charter member of Volunteers of America, VOASE provides services across Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia. Today, in addition to intellectual and developmental disabilities programs, Volunteers of America Southeast serves veterans, low-income seniors, children and youth, homeless, and people with addictive diseases and mental illness. Serving over 2,000 people daily with direct programs, VOASE also serves over 8,000 people annually with community outreach. VOASE strives to enable the people we serve to become as independent as possible, without jeopardizing the welfare or safety of the individual. [www.voase.org](http://www.voase.org)

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