

RENEWAL

A POAH MIDWEST NEWSLETTER



"Straight Out of Summer" Kicks Off Back to School Season

With students and teachers getting ready to return to in-person schooling, POAH wanted children and their families to get the tools they need to start the school year on the right foot. So, on August 13, POAH held its annual "Straight Out of Summer" back-to-school event at the Woodlawn Resource Center.

This year, nearly 100 students from Woodlawn Park were able to pick up new school supplies, meet new classmates and reconnect with their friends and neighbors. The students received a variety of essential school supplies, including draw-string book bags, pencils, rulers, crayons, and notebooks. And to ensure everyone's safety, POAH distributed hand sanitizers and masks to students and their families.

"While there are still many unknowns about this pandemic, POAH understands that helping prepare students and their families for a successful school year is one of the best investments anyone can make in a better future," said Felicia Dawson, Vice President of Strategic Partnerships for POAH Communities. "And if we can help lighten the load for the families in the community, that's an added bonus."

POAH also provided everyone at the event with food and refreshments from the Jewel at 61st Street and Cottage Grove and from two Woodlawn small businesses: Shakespear Rose Culinary, a catering business owned and operated by Berneice Outlaw, who served snack packs containing hamburgers and chips, with all the trimmings; and dessert that was provided courtesy of our neighborhood icon, Salvador "Snow Cone."

"I want to thank everyone who stepped up to help make 'Straight Out of Summer' such a success," added Dawson. "Our goal is to give these kids the resources and support they need to thrive in school, which is critical to their future and the long-term health and vitality of our community."