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**OFFICE DEPOT TO CELEBRATE OPENING OF FIRST STORE
IN ELLISVILLE, MO., WITH MARCH 27 RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY**

*Event to Include Donations to KidSmart – Tools for Learning;
Covenant House Missouri and The Clarkson Eyecare Foundation;
Remarks by Local Business and Government Officials*

Ellisville, Mo., March 24, 2008 – Office Depot (NYSE: ODP), a leading global provider of office products and services, announced today that the Company will celebrate the opening of its first store in Ellisville on Thursday, March 27, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. The store is located at 15896 Manchester Rd., in the Bradford Hills shopping plaza.

During the ribbon-cutting ceremony, the Office Depot Foundation will make \$500 contributions and donate a number of new children's backpacks to three local non-profit organizations: KidSmart – Tools for Learning, Covenant House Missouri and The Clarkson Eyecare Foundation. In addition, Mayor Matt Pirrello and Alan Clayton, President, West St. Louis County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, will offer welcoming remarks. The public is invited to attend the event.

About the New Office Depot Store in Ellisville

According to Store Manager Ed Lafaver, the new Ellisville store features Office Depot's industry-leading M2 retail format. M2 offers customers the most enjoyable shopping experience in the industry – in a format that is intuitive, logical and designed specifically for the way people make purchase decisions.

Products are grouped in highly visible, strategically located "pods," with core supplies at the outer perimeter of the store – signed for optimal visibility and easy purchase – and furniture and technology at the center – to better support consultative sales.

The new Office Depot store employs approximately 20 full- and part-time associates. It houses more than 7,500 technology, furniture and supply products as well as Design, Print and Ship services in 20,856 square feet of customer space.

Store hours are Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.; Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.; and Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The telephone number for the store is 636-527-9888.

About the Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

Special guests scheduled to participate in the March 27 ribbon-cutting include:

Non-Profit Organization Representatives:

- Jennifer Miller, President and Executive Director, KidSmart
- Christy McCutcheon, Director of Development, KidSmart
- Mandi Pollihan, Manager of Corporate Donor Relations, KidSmart
- Sue Wagener, Executive Director, Covenant House Missouri
- Bill Jehling, President, The Clarkson Eyecare Foundation
- Tesha Hawk, Director, The Clarkson Eyecare Foundation

Federal Official:

- Holly Warden, Staff Assistant representing U.S. Representative Todd Akin

Ellisville City Officials:

- Mayor Matt Pirrello
- Councilman Charles Pavlack
- Councilwoman Dawn Anglin

West St. Louis County Chamber of Commerce Representatives:

- Alan Clayton, President, Board of Directors
- Karen Bartold, Ambassador
- Marilyn Bryant, Ambassador
- Dwight Alberhasky, Ambassador
- Kendra Stillwell, Ambassador
- Ron Rendleman, Ambassador
- Bill Turnbough, Ambassador

“Office Depot is strongly committed to enhancing the quality of life in the communities in which our company conducts business,” said Lafaver. “We are excited to open our first store in Ellisville and to assist these critically important non-profit organizations in their efforts to make a meaningful difference in the lives of children and families in this area.”

The backpack donations are part of the Office Depot Foundation National Backpack Program, through which it will donate 300,000 new backpacks this year to non-profit organizations and schools for distribution to deserving children throughout the United States and Canada. By the end of this year, Office Depot will have given away nearly 1.8 million backpacks since the program began in 2001.

About Office Depot

Every day, Office Depot is Taking Care of Business for millions of customers around the globe. For the local corner store as well as Fortune 500 companies, Office Depot provides products and services to its customers through more than 1,600 worldwide retail stores, a dedicated sales force, top-rated catalogs and a \$4.9 billion e-commerce operation. Office Depot has annual sales of approximately \$15.5 billion, and employs about 49,000 associates around the world. The Company provides more office products and services to more customers in more countries than any other company, and currently sells to customers directly or through affiliates in 43 countries.

Office Depot’s common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol ODP and is included in the S&P 500 Index. Additional press information can be found at <http://mediarelations.officedepot.com>. Details and images specific to Office Depot’s retail division are available at <http://mediarelations.officedepot.cc/m2>.

About the Office Depot Foundation

The Office Depot Foundation is an independent foundation that serves as the primary charitable giving arm of Office Depot. In keeping with its mission, Listen Learn Care, the Foundation strives to make a positive impact on many lives in many communities around the world. The Foundation supports a variety of programs that enhance the quality of life for children, strengthen communities, encourage local and global economic growth, and empower schools and non-profit organizations. It also provides support when disasters strike – doing what it can, not only to speed the process of rebuilding, but also to mitigate the impact of future disasters. Visit www.officedepotfoundation.org for more information.

About KidSmart – Tools for Learning

For more than 80,000 St. Louis children, schoolwork is a constant scavenger hunt. These kids cannot afford, and therefore do not have, the basic school supplies to succeed in school. Pencils, crayons and paper are simply not available. KidSmart helps these students succeed in school by providing them with the tools they need to learn, for free. KidSmart opened in 2002 to distribute donated supplies from individuals, businesses and organizations to kids in need. Since its beginning, operating a free educational supply store in Bridgeton run on volunteer help, KidSmart has distributed more than \$8 million in supplies to St. Louis area children.

About Covenant House Missouri

Covenant House Missouri (CHMO) is a non-profit organization that empowers homeless, runaway and at-risk youth to live independently and become contributing members of the community. With open doors and open hearts, CHMO provides a full suite of services designed to educate, train, mentor and support homeless teens. In FY 2007, CHMO provided services to 3,518 unduplicated youth, working to empower the young people in living their lives to their fullest potential.

About The Clarkson Eyecare Foundation

The Clarkson Eyecare Foundation is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life by providing vision improvement and access to a bright future. The Clarkson Eyecare Foundation is a non-profit eye health organization that was founded in 2004 to continue and expand on Clarkson Eyecare's community outreach programs already in place. The foundation has several programs including Pujols Family Foundation Vision Mission, Boys & Girls Club Herbert Hoover – Adams Park Unit Vision, Boys & Girls Club Herbert Hoover – Grand Unit Vision, EyeGeneration, LASIK for Physically Challenged, Season for Sight, InfantSee and VISION USA.

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