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OFFICE DEPOT TO CELEBRATE OPENING OF FIRST STORE IN GOLDSBORO, N.C., WITH MARCH 20 RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY

*Event to Include Donations to The Partnership for Children of Wayne County,
Community Soup Kitchen of Goldsboro and Smart Choices for Youth;
Remarks by Local Business and Government Officials*

Goldsboro, N.C., March 17, 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 Goldsboro on Thursday, March 20, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. The store is located at 2110 Wayne Memorial Dr., in the Memorial Commons.

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: The Partnership for Children of Wayne County, Community Soup Kitchen of Goldsboro and Smart Choices for Youth. In addition, Reggie Holley, Deputy State Director for United States Senator Elizabeth Dole; Jason Soper, Southeastern Field Representative for United States Senator Richard Burr; Frankie Moye, Staff Assistant to United States Congressman Walter Jones Jr.; Rubin Clayton, Regional Director for United States Congressman G.K. Butterfield; State Representative Louis Pate Jr.; State Senator John Kerr; Wayne County Commissioner JD Evans; Wayne County Sheriff Carey Winders; Goldsboro Mayor Alfonzo King; and Geoff Hulse, Chairman of the Board of Directors from the Wayne County Chamber of Commerce, will offer welcoming remarks. Councilmen Charles E. Waller and Michael Headen will also attend. The public is invited to attend the event.

About the New Office Depot Store in Goldsboro

According to Store Manager Julio Gomez, the new Goldsboro 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 20,594 square feet of customer space.

Store hours are Monday through Friday 7:00 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 919-739-9942.

About the Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

Special guests scheduled to participate in the March 20 ribbon-cutting include:

Non-Profit Organization Representatives:

- Don Magoon, Executive Director, The Partnership for Children of Wayne County
- Kim Best, Director of Community Services, The Partnership for Children of Wayne County
- Patty Huffman, Director of Program Coordination and Evaluation, The Partnership for Children of Wayne County
- Doricia Benton, Director, Community Soup Kitchen of Goldsboro
- Greg O'Donoghue, Board President, Community Soup Kitchen of Goldsboro
- Daryl M. Woodard, Executive Director and Founder, Smart Choices for Youth
- Jermaine Parks, Program Director for Mentoring Children of Prisoners, Smart Choices for Youth

Federal Officials:

- Reggie Holley, Deputy State Director for United States Senator Elizabeth Dole
- Jason Soper, Southeastern Field Representative for United States Senator Richard Burr
- Frankie Moye, Staff Assistant for United States Congressman Walter Jones Jr.
- Rubin Clayton, Regional Director for United States Congressman G.K. Butterfield

State Officials:

- Senator John H. Kerr
- Representative Louis M. Pate Jr.

Wayne County Officials:

- Sheriff Carey Winders
- Commissioner JD Evans

City of Goldsboro Officials:

- Mayor Alfonzo King
- Councilman Charles E. Waller
- Councilman Michael Headen

Wayne County Chamber of Commerce Representative:

- Geoff Hulse, Chairman of the Board of Directors
- Terry Jordan, Chair-Elect

“Office Depot is strongly committed to enhancing the quality of life in the communities in which our company conducts business,” said Gomez. “We are excited to open our first store in Goldsboro 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 The Partnership for Children of Wayne County

The Partnership for Children of Wayne County is a non-profit organization designed to provide programs and services for families and children in Wayne County, N.C. The Partnership for Children of Wayne County administers the Smart Start Program, pre-kindergarten More at Four program and Safe Kids, educates the community on the critical needs of young children and helps develop solutions.

About Community Soup Kitchen of Goldsboro

The mission of Community Soup Kitchen of Goldsboro is to bring together people and resources of Wayne County to provide a daily meal for those who are hungry. Each person is welcomed with understanding, dignity and without obligation. The Soup Kitchen promotes programs to motivate and educate low-income individuals and families. These programs include a partnership with Goshen Medical, the Downtown Lions Club, Wayne Community College and an onsite community information desk.

About Smart Choices for Youth

Smart Choices for Youth has been dedicated to the needs and services of at-risk and disadvantaged youth in Wayne and Wilson counties since 1989. The mission of Smart Choices for Youth is to establish programs to aid in the prevention of juvenile delinquency. Positive youth development includes promoting a sense of safety and providing appropriate structure. Smart Choice for Youth strives to create supportive

relationships giving youth responsibilities and meaningful challenges. It provides opportunities for skill building, family coordination and school and community programming.

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