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## **OFFICE DEPOT TO CELEBRATE OPENING OF FIRST STORE IN JONESBORO, ARK., WITH MARCH 20 RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY**

*Event to Include Donations to Consolidated Youth Services Inc., Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas and Women's Crisis Center of Northeast Arkansas Inc.;  
Remarks by Local Business and Government Officials*

**Jonesboro, Ark., 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 Jonesboro on Thursday, March 20, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. The store is located at 3009 E. Highland Dr., in the Turtle Creek Crossing Shopping Center.

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: Consolidated Youth Services Inc., Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas and Women's Crisis Center of Northeast Arkansas Inc. In addition, State Senator Paul Bookout; Mayor Doug Formon; and Lucinda McDaniel, Chair, Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, will offer welcoming remarks. Councilman Harold Perrin; Councilman Tim McCall; Mark Young, President and CEO, Mandy Cook, Membership Director, and the Ambassadors from the Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce will also attend. The public is invited to attend the event.

### **About the New Office Depot Store in Jonesboro**

According to Store Manager Robert Ward, the new Jonesboro 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 19,826 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 870-932-4222.

### **About the Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony**

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

#### **Non-Profit Organization Representatives:**

- Bonnie Smith, Executive Director, Consolidated Youth Services Inc.
- Christie Jordan, Executive Director, Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas
- Keith Henick, Board Member, Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas
- Deborah Lisella, Board Member, Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas
- Caryl Steele, Board Member, Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas
- Kevan Inboden, Board Member, Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas
- Kerri Bangert, Development Specialist, Women's Crisis Center of Northeast Arkansas Inc.

#### **State Official:**

- State Senator Paul Bookout

#### **City Officials:**

- Mayor Doug Formon
- Councilman Harold Perrin
- Councilman Tim McCall

#### **Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce Representatives:**

- Lucinda McDaniel, Chair, Board of Directors
- Mark Young, President and CEO
- Mandy Cook, Membership Director

"Office Depot is strongly committed to enhancing the quality of life in the communities in which our company conducts business," said Ward. "We are excited to open our first store in Jonesboro 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](http://www.officedepotfoundation.org) for more information.

**About Consolidated Youth Services Inc.**

Consolidated Youth Services is a non-profit youth services agency which provides emergency shelter and other residential treatment services for over 600 boys and girls each year and non-residential services to over 350 youth living in their own home. Services are provided to runaway and homeless youth and to other youth referred by service agencies and the juvenile court.

**About Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas**

The Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas is a non-profit organization that serves as a clearinghouse to collect, store and distribute food and grocery products to a network of approximately 90 charitable agencies in Northeast Arkansas. The Food Bank acts as the middleman between the food industry and local food assistance charities. The Food Bank's network of agencies includes charitable organizations such as church food pantries, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, non-profit daycare centers, senior citizens centers and special care facilities. These agencies utilize the Food Bank of NEA as a resource to secure food to distribute to families in need. Currently, the Food Bank of NEA serves 12 counties: Clay, Craighead, Crittenden, Cross, Greene, Jackson, Lawrence, Mississippi, Poinsett, Randolph, St. Francis and Woodruff. In 2007 the Food Bank of NEA distributed more than 1.7 million pounds of food and grocery products throughout Northeast Arkansas in partnership with their agency network and other programs such as the Sr. Pack Program, the Backpack Program and commodity distributions.

**About Women's Crisis Center of Northeast Arkansas Inc.**

The Women's Crisis Center of Northeast Arkansas Inc. is a non-profit organization providing emergency and outreach services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the agency. Last year, the WCC fielded over 2,000 crisis calls from women seeking help for themselves and their children in escaping an abusive partner. Children who witness abuse are often traumatized by what they see or experience. As a consequence they are more likely to use violence at school, commit crimes (especially sexual assault), use drugs, attempt suicide and become abusers in their own relationships later in life.

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