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**OFFICE DEPOT TO CELEBRATE OPENING OF FIRST STORE
IN NATCHEZ, MISS. WITH MARCH 20 RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY**

*Event to Include Donations to Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation,
Adams County Chapter of the American Red Cross and Adams County CASA, Inc.;
Remarks by Local Business and Government Officials*

Natchez, Miss., March 17 – 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 Natchez on Thursday, March 20, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. The store is located at 350 John R. Junkin Drive in the Natchez Mall 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: Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Adams County Chapter of the American Red Cross and Adams County CASA, Inc. In addition, Mayor Phillip Curtis West and Cliff Merritt, Chairman, Natchez-Adams 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 Natchez

According to Store Manager Michael Clubb, the new Natchez 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 20,898 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 601-443-9763.

About the Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

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

Non-Profit Organization Representatives:

- Michelle Colon, Special Events Coordinator, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation
- Angie Brown, Chapter Manager, Adams County Chapter of the American Red Cross
- Jim Blough, Board Chairman, Adams County Chapter of the American Red Cross
- Pat Gallaway, Board Member, Adams County Chapter of the American Red Cross
- Cathie Bullion, Program Director, Adams County CASA, Inc.
- Jeanine Wickham, Youth Court Administrator, Adams County CASA, Inc.
- Sim Mosby, Board of Directors, Adams County CASA, Inc.

City Official:

- Mayor Phillip Curtis West

Natchez-Adams County Chamber of Commerce Representative:

- Cliff Merritt, Chairman, Board of Directors

“Office Depot is strongly committed to enhancing the quality of life in the communities in which our company conducts business,” said Clubb. “We are excited to open our first store in Natchez 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 Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation

The mission of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation is to find a cure for diabetes and its complications through the support of research. The Mississippi Chapter hosts numerous fundraising events throughout the year to benefit research toward finding a cure for Juvenile Diabetes.

About Adams County Chapter of the American Red Cross

The American Red Cross provides relief to victims of disaster and helps people to prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies. This year the Adams County Chapter is celebrating their 90th anniversary. The Adams County Chapter of the American Red Cross provides service to Adams, Amite, Jefferson and Wilkinson Counties. This is accomplished by offering disaster and health and safety classes. The Adams County Chapter also provides help 24 hours a day for the armed forces and works with military aid societies to provide financial assistance to active duty members, retirees and their families.

About Adams County CASA

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) was created in 1977 to make sure the abuse and neglect these children originally suffered at home doesn't continue as abuse and neglect at the hands of the system. As trained advocates, CASA volunteers are appointed by judges to be a voice for these children in court. The result is that a child is placed into a safe, loving home where he/she can thrive. It is the CASA vision to provide a volunteer for each and every abused and neglected child who needs one. The mission of the Adams County CASA is to speak for the best interests of abused and neglected children in the courts. They promote and support quality volunteer representation for children to provide each child a safe, permanent, nurturing home.

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