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## **OFFICE DEPOT TO CELEBRATE OPENING OF FIRST STORE IN VALPARAISO, IND., WITH FEBRUARY 20 RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY**

*Event to Include Donations to Northwest Indiana First Steps, The Caring Place and Family & Youth Services Bureau; Remarks by Local Business and Government Officials*

**Valparaiso, Ind., February 18, 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 Valparaiso on Wednesday, February 20, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. The store is located at 610 Porter's Vale Blvd., in the Porter's Vale 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: Northwest Indiana First Steps, The Caring Place and Family & Youth Services Bureau. In addition, James Staton, Director of the Northwest Regional Office of Governor Mitchell Daniels; Valparaiso Mayor Jon Costas and Rex Richards, President of the Greater Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce, will offer welcoming remarks. City Council Members Jan Dick and Art Elwood will also attend. The public is invited to attend the event as well.

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

According to Store Manager Paul Jacobson, the new Valparaiso 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 20,921 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 219-477-4006.

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

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

**Non-Profit Organization Representatives:**

- Clara Mann, Director, Northwest Indiana First Steps
- Jillian Condon, Council Coordinator, Northwest Indiana First Steps
- Ann Baas, Associate Director, Family & Youth Services Bureau
- Mary Beth Schultz, Executive Director, The Caring Place
- Gene Novello, Board President, The Caring Place
- Kathy Ireland, Board Vice President, The Caring Place

**City Officials:**

- Mayor Jon Costas
- Council Member Jan Dick
- Council Member Art Elwood

**State Official:**

- James Stanton, Director of the Northwest Regional Office of Governor Mitchell E. Daniels

**Greater Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce Representative:**

- Rex Richards, President

“Office Depot is strongly committed to enhancing the quality of life in the communities in which our company conducts business,” said Jacobson. “We are excited to open our first store in Valparaiso 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 distributed 300,000 new backpacks last year to non-profit organizations and schools for distribution to deserving children throughout the United States and Canada. Office Depot has given away nearly 1.5 million backpacks since the program began in 2001.

**About Office Depot**

Office Depot provides more office products and services to more customers in more countries than any other company.

Incorporated in 1986 and headquartered in Delray Beach, Fla., Office Depot has annual sales of approximately \$15.5 billion, and employs approximately 52,000 associates around the world. Currently, the Company sells to customers directly or through affiliates in 43 countries.

Office Depot is a leader in every distribution channel -- from retail stores and contract delivery to catalogs and e-commerce. As of September 29, 2007, Office Depot had 1,212 retail stores in North America and another 384 stores, either company-owned, licensed or franchised, in other parts of the world. Office Depot serves a wide range of customers through a dedicated sales force, telephone account managers, direct mail offerings, and multiple web sites. With \$4.8 billion in online sales during the last twelve months, the Company is also one of the world’s largest e-commerce retailers.

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 Northwest Indiana First Steps**

First Steps is a family-centered, community-based, coordinated system that provides early intervention services to children birth to three years of age living in Indiana, who have developmental delays or are developmentally at risk. Northwest Indiana First Steps serves families residing in Jasper, Lake, Laporte, Newton and Porter counties.

#### **About The Caring Place**

The mission of The Caring Place is to provide service and shelter for victims of violence and their children. Through education and awareness, it empowers all members of the community to live in peace. Services include legal advocacy, safety planning, safe shelter, services for men, preventing elder abuse and awareness projects like NBA (No Bullying Allowed). In 2008, The Caring Place will reach a major milestone, 30 years of improving lives in the community.

#### **About Family & Youth Services Bureau**

The Porter County CASA program is a program of the Family & Youth Services Bureau (FYSB). A FYSB Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) is a trained community volunteer who is appointed by the Juvenile Court to advocate for a child who has been abused or neglected. A CASA volunteer investigates the circumstances surrounding the case, making an independent evaluation of what is in the child's best interest – both immediately and in the future – and working with the parties to achieve permanency for the child. Currently there are 56 CASA volunteers and a staff of three, advocating on behalf of 297 Porter County abused and neglected children.

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