



# ABC Unified School District Education Foundation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **KAISER PERMANENTE IN CERRITOS DONATES 127 BACKPACKS TO ABC EDUCATION FOUNDATION BACKPACK DRIVE**

August 29, 2019, Cerritos, CA—The ABC Education Foundation received 127 backpacks full of school supplies from employees and physicians of Kaiser Permanente Cerritos Medical Offices to support the Foundation’s annual backpack drive this year. Backpacks were distributed on August 23<sup>rd</sup> to schools throughout ABC Unified School District.

The ABC Education Foundation has been raising funds throughout the community since 2012 for this project and has distributed backpacks to over 5,000 students over the years. Each year the schools are asked to provide a wish list of backpacks based on their knowledge of low income and homeless students at their school. District Social Worker, Tina Porter, worked directly with the schools to determine their needs this year.

“Year after year, Kaiser Permanente has been one of our biggest supporters with the backpack initiative,” said ABC Education Foundation Board Member, Cindy Yen Chen, who is also the chair of the Foundation’s Backpack Initiative. “Each backpack provided by the doctors and staff at Kaiser Permanente include a variety of school supplies and even a personalized note for the student. These backpacks are truly special and were put together with a lot of love.”

“The physicians and staff at the Kaiser Permanente Cerritos Medical Offices enjoy giving back to the community we serve by collecting backpacks and supplies and writing notes of encouragement to the students. We hope these backpacks motivate students to start a successful school year,” said Judong Kim, MD, physician in charge at Kaiser Permanente Cerritos Medical Offices. Donations were also collected by the Foundation to purchase additional supplies and backpacks that were stuffed and distributed on August 23, 2019.

### **About the ABC Education Foundation**

The ABC Education Foundation was founded in February 2012 to support district programs in jeopardy due to budget cuts. Since its inception, the Foundation has funded over \$300,000 in programs for ABC schools, the majority given to schools through an annual grant program as well as their annual school backpack initiative. The ABC Education Foundation also provides educational opportunities for local students through their Enrichment Academy, where all funds raised also support ABCUSD schools. The Foundation also helped secure \$3.5 million in additional grants for the district over the last several years.

### **About Kaiser Permanente**

Kaiser Permanente is committed to helping shape the future of health care. We are recognized as one of America’s leading health care providers and not-for-profit health plans. Founded in 1945, Kaiser Permanente has a mission to provide high-quality, affordable health care services and to improve the health of our members and the communities we serve. We currently serve 12.3 million members in eight states and the District of Columbia. Care for members and patients is focused on their total health and guided by their personal Permanente Medical Group physicians, specialists and team of caregivers. Our expert and caring medical teams are empowered and supported by industry-leading technology advances and tools for health promotion, disease prevention, state-of-the-art care delivery and world-class chronic disease management. Kaiser Permanente is dedicated to care innovations, clinical research, health education and the support of community health. For more

information, go to: [kp.org/share](http://kp.org/share). For information about Kaiser Permanente Downey Medical Center, visit [kp.org/downey](http://kp.org/downey) and follow us on Twitter @KPDDowneyNews.

**Photo Caption:**

*(Pictured Left to Right) Front Row:* Veronica Torres, LVN; Norma Rodriguez, Assistant Department Administrator; Becky Stout, Unit Manager; Yolanda Herrera, Department Administrator; Heather Summers, ABC Education Foundation President; and Sasha Leonardo, ABC Education Foundation Executive Director.

*Back Row:* Michael Abdelhadi, Supervisor of Office Services; Judong Kim, MD, physician in charge; Shawn Pfendler, Assistant Department Administrator; Cindy Yen Chen, ABC Education Foundation Board Member (and backpack chair); and Carmen Gonzalez, Public Affairs Representative.

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