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NEWS RELEASE

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## **Kids get Back-to-School Boost from the Wilder Foundation**

*Nearly 700 St. Paul-Area School Children Receive Donated Backpacks and School Supplies;  
Wilder Sees Increasing Needs and Prepares for Future Growth*

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ST. PAUL, Minn. (Sept. 5, 2007)** – School children living in St. Paul’s Jackson Street Village got a head start on a successful school year thanks to the Wilder Foundation, a nonprofit health and human services organization that has served the greater St. Paul area since 1906.

The Wilder Foundation, with assistance from employee volunteers from UBS Financial Services, a leading global wealth manager, recently distributed backpacks stocked with school supplies to kids living in the housing community. Jackson Street Village provides permanent housing and supportive services to previously homeless or precariously housed families residing in Ramsey County who are also facing multiple health issues.

The gifts were welcomed by the kids, according to Tom Kingston, president of the Wilder Foundation, and the act is also rewarding for volunteers who donated their time and money to the cause. However, the Foundation expects the need for its Back-to-School Campaign to continue to grow.

“Helping kids succeed in school is one of the cornerstones of the Wilder Foundation,” said Kingston. “Our Back-to-School Campaign has been around for more than a decade and, unfortunately, we have seen the need for this campaign grow dramatically over the past several years. Luckily, we have a great network of volunteers and employees who help us meet the increased need.”

In all, nearly 700 kids in Wilder’s residential and housing programs received donated backpacks filled with school supplies before the start of the school year. Volunteers assembled two versions of the backpacks, one for elementary-age kids and another for junior high and senior high school students. The supplies included crayons, pens, pencils and notebooks. Older school children also received a ruler, protractor, compass and calculator.

Wilder leaders anticipate the growing number of children needing supplies and backpacks will be a continuing trend—something that will be made easier when the Wilder Foundation moves to its new building later this year. The new Wilder Center, currently being constructed at the intersection of Lexington Parkway and University Ave., will allow the Foundation’s programs to grow with the anticipated need.

Community partners participating in Wilder’s Back-to-School Campaign this year included: Caring Tree, League of Minnesota Cities, Sue Piva, School Tools, UBS Financial Services and Yocum Oil. Wilder employees also donated a significant amount of cash, school supplies and backpacks to the Back-to-School Campaign.

To learn more about the Wilder Foundation and the new Wilder Center, visit [www.wilder.org](http://www.wilder.org).

***About the New Wilder Center***

The 99,953 square-foot, four-story building will house approximately 300 employees from Wilder Programs, Wilder Research and Administration and Executive Offices, and is designed to accommodate more than 22,000 client visits each year. A key feature of the building will be a community convening space for up to 300 people to attend training, education and leadership events.

***About the Wilder Foundation***

The Amherst H. Wilder Foundation is a nonprofit health and human services organization that has served the greater St. Paul, Minnesota, area since 1906. The Foundation operates more than 70 programs and services that help children succeed in school; troubled youth and families; individuals and families maintain long-term housing; older adults remain independent; and organizations and individuals work for positive change in the community. Wilder Research is one of the nation’s largest nonprofit research and evaluation groups dedicated to practical research in the field of human services. Wilder Leadership Programs work to nurture and build the skills of emerging community leaders, and to renew the energy and commitment of experienced leaders.

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**Photo Caption #1:**

Employees from UBS Financial Services distributed backpacks filled with school supplies to 59 school children living in St. Paul’s Jackson Street Village. Jackson Street provides permanent housing and supportive services to previously homeless or precariously housed families residing in Ramsey County who are also facing multiple health issues. Thanks to companies like UBS, nearly 700 kids in Wilder Foundation’s residential and housing programs received donated backpacks this year as part of Wilder’s Back-to-School Campaign. The Foundation’s new Wilder Center, which will open in early 2008, will allow programs like the Back-to-School Campaign to grow with the anticipated need.

**Photo Caption #2:**

School children living in St. Paul’s Jackson Street Village welcomed a visit by employee volunteers from UBS Financial Services and the Wilder Foundation. The volunteers gave the kids backpacks filled with school supplies as part of the Wilder Foundation’s Back-to-School Campaign. Jackson Street Village provides permanent housing and supportive services to previously homeless or precariously housed families residing in Ramsey County who are also facing multiple health issues. Nearly 700 kids in Wilder’s residential and housing programs received donated backpacks this year. The Foundation’s new Wilder Center, which will open in early 2008, will allow programs like the Back-to-School Campaign to grow with the anticipated need.