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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Hundreds of Backpacks To Be Distributed at Annual Celebration**

[FORT WAYNE, IN] – Sending a child back to school often creates a financial strain for families. With the cost of school supplies on the rise, many struggling parents face the choice of purchasing school supplies or providing basic needs like food for their children.

Lifeline Youth and Family Services, a nonprofit organization in Fort Wayne, intervenes each year so parents don't have to make this choice. Lifeline partners with The Chapel, local businesses, organizations and individuals to collect hundreds of filled backpacks for the children at Brookmill Court Apartments, a low-income housing community in Fort Wayne. This apartment complex is also the home of Lifeline's Building Blocks Preschool, a free-of-charge preschool aimed at giving children the tools to make healthy choices, and good learning habits in an effort to break the cycle of poverty that is so prevalent in this community.

Backpacks will be distributed to the community during Backpack Round Up, presented by Parkview Health. This community event is held at Brookmill Court Apartments on Thursday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 pm. This year, Lifeline will also be celebrating 30 years in the community. Events during this year's celebration include pony rides, carnival games, face painting and music, as well as health and safety information, and school engagement professionals.

*"Without these school supplies and backpacks, my three kids would start the school year behind. These backpacks are a blessing and I'm so grateful that Lifeline cares about my kids."* – a resident of Brookmill Court Apartments

Lifeline looks forward to this event every year and is always looking for more opportunities to serve their local community. The event begins with a celebration of Project Incentive's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary at 5pm. A public program including Mayor Henry and other community supporters takes place right before the annual distribution and community picnic. For more information regarding a backpack donation, please contact Frances Brooks at [fbrooks@lifelineyouth.org](mailto:fbrooks@lifelineyouth.org)

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### **ABOUT US**

For nearly 50 years, **Lifeline Youth & Family Services** has been strengthening children and families who have been impacted by abuse, neglect, and delinquency—arguably the most vulnerable in our community. **Project Incentive** is a Lifeline program that includes a free-of-charge preschool that operates five days per week, with weekly lesson plans and activities centered on specific educational themes. This also includes regular, intentional outreach to parents—many of whom are single parents by monthly peer meetings called "Empowering Women Now" where parents can get education, support, and encouragement from others within the community. Together we're helping individuals succeed, families thrive and communities prosper.