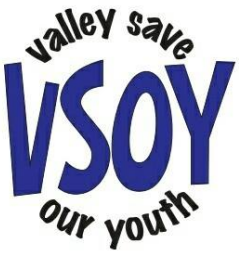


## Valley Save Our Youth distributes backpacks, supplies to students

By Patricia Villers

ANSONIA - Although Hurricane Henri forced Valley Save Our Youth to cancel its Back to School Rally the organization still helped local children start school on the right foot.



School started Aug. 26 in Ansonia and the day before Valley Save Our Youth distributed backpacks filled with school supplies to more than 170 students, treasurer Jill Duffus said.

The donated book bags and supplies were given out to students in Kindergarten and Grades 1-12 at the Ford building next to Gatison Park, where the 9th annual rally had been scheduled.



The Salvation Army Greater Valley was one of the organizations that partnered with VSOY at the event.

Salvation Army Captain Cheryl McCollum said in an email, "It was great to see the young people come and pick out their backpack and quite a few Pre-K starting their school journey.




We know it has been such a tough time for our young people over the past year and anything we can do to assist in them starting this school year off on the right track was our mission. It has now been a year since I joined the Greater Valley community and the one thing that stands out to me here is that there is no "I" in the word team. When there are concerns to be addressed the community agencies have no problem coming together to address them."

Abundant Life Fellowship Ministries and Life Health and Wellness, both in Ansonia, also participated.








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For Applications and/or Questions: Contact Rich Di Carlo at : [studiochid@sbcglobal.net](mailto:studiochid@sbcglobal.net)

