

community



Through Staples Foundation for Learning® and other charitable endeavors, Staples distributes resources to nonprofit organizations in the communities where our customers and associates live and work. The organizations we support help provide educational opportunities and job-training assistance for all people, with a special emphasis on disadvantaged youth. Our community-giving programs help create stronger, healthier communities by providing participants with the skills and experiences they need to more fully engage in and benefit from society.

| Staples Charitable Contributions | 2004 | 2005 |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| Total Charitable Contributions (not including disaster relief) | \$9,677,797 | \$9,168,822 |
| Staples Foundation for Learning | \$2,000,000 | \$2,000,000 |
| In-Kind Donations | \$4,918,346 | \$4,198,161 |
| Cash Donations | \$2,759,451 | \$2,970,661 |
| Organizations supported by Staples Foundation for Learning | 107 | 121 |

Total charitable contributions figures do NOT include \$908,010 in cash and product donations for disaster relief provided to victims of Gulf Coast hurricanes in 2005 and \$134,026 provided for various disaster relief efforts in 2004.

staples foundation for learning

The mission of Staples Foundation for Learning® is to support nonprofit organizations that provide job skills and educational opportunities for all people, with a special emphasis on disadvantaged youth. The foundation began in August 2002 as a formal vehicle for Staples' community giving. To date, the foundation has awarded \$6 million in grants to 302 nonprofit organizations in 169 communities across the United States.



Each year, Staples stores in Cincinnati raise funds to support Crayons to Computers, a free school supply store for Cincinnati-area teachers who serve the educational and creative needs of disadvantaged children.

One example of an educational organization that Staples Foundation for Learning has supported over the past three years is Crayons to Computers in Cincinnati, Ohio, to which the foundation awarded a third grant in 2005. Crayons to Computers serves the educational and creative needs of children in the Greater Cincinnati area by providing a unique means to transfer free donated merchandise from businesses and individuals to teachers for use in their classrooms and schools. The foundation has supported Crayons to Computers' Push for Pencils, an annual back to school supply drive creating community awareness that all children deserve a chance to be prepared for school with adequate tools for learning. In addition to the foundation grants, each Staples® store throughout Cincinnati participates in an annual fundraising effort for Push for Pencils, giving more teachers the opportunity to obtain free supplies for their students.



Staples Foundation for Learning and Boys & Girls Clubs of America's partnership enables disadvantaged youth to reach their full potential.

national grants

Since 2002, Staples Foundation for Learning® has been a national supporter of Boys & Girls Clubs of America, (BGCA) an organization that provides a safe and structured environment for children after school. In 2003, the foundation began its funding of Boys & Girls Clubs of America's Torch Clubs program, through a 3-year, \$2.5 million grant. In addition to helping build character and leadership skills in preteens, Torch Clubs promote positive self-esteem and personal growth, reinforce academic achievement and encourage children to develop into conscientious citizens.

Partnership accomplishments include:

- Served nearly 12,800 youths in more than 1,166 Torch Clubs throughout the United States and in U.S. military bases around the world
- Launched Torch Clubs to the first national BGCA program to exceed the 1,000th chartered group mark
- Enabled Torch Clubs to become the most highly requested national BGCA program
- Provided professional development opportunities to Torch Club staff to expand their skills set and provide youth with more comprehensive services

The Foundation also has national partnerships with nonprofit organizations focused on the areas of diversity, the environment and Hispanic youth.



Initiative for a Competitive Inner City

Staples Foundation for Learning's diversity partner is Initiative for a Competitive Inner City, which works with inner-city businesses to develop resources, jobs and wealth generation for inner-city residents. The Foundation supports the Inner City 100 program, an annual list of the fastest growing inner-city companies in America highlighted annually in *Inc.* magazine. ICIC finds, celebrates and supports diverse, successful businesses that make positive impacts on their communities.

Partnership accomplishments include:

- Encouraged Staples small business customers to apply for the Inner City 100 list, resulting in significant increase in nominations from growing inner-city small businesses
- Heightened awareness of the economic viability of America's inner cities by distributing information to the media about the 2005 Inner City 100 Summit and Awards Dinner and promoting Staples' involvement with ICIC
- Enabled ICIC to perform in-depth research on financing and capitalization issues faced by Inner City 100 companies to help better understand how and where companies choose to locate
- Supported a best business practices white paper examining the success and key learnings of minority and women-owned businesses named to the Inner City 100 list
- Presented Minority Business of the Year Award to the Pistons Group at the 2005 Inner City 100 Award Dinner

Staples Foundation for Learning supports Boys & Girls Clubs of America's Torch Clubs, a character and leadership development program for underserved youth.

national grants continued

Earth Force, the Foundation's environmental partner, is an organization that works to get young people learning about and caring for their communities and environment, while developing life-long skills of active citizenship and environmental stewardship.

The Foundation supports the Global Rivers Environmental Education Network (GREEN) and Community Action and Problem Solving (CAPS) programs in Charleston, SC, Philadelphia, PA, Tampa, FL, Washington DC, and Chicago, IL.



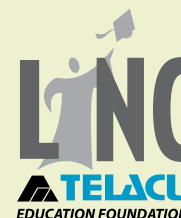
Partnership accomplishments include:

- Grew the GREEN and CAPS programs in Charleston, SC, Tampa, FL, and Washington DC; and extended the partnership to include Tinley Park in Chicago
- Created a partnership with the Tinley Park Staples store, which adopted Earth Force and enabled associates to participate in a water-monitoring event at a local middle school
- Provided 46 educators and more than 1,100 students throughout Charleston, Philadelphia, Tampa, Washington DC, and Tinley Park with specialized environmental education, and participated in outdoor conservation projects
- Upon completion of the Earth Force curriculum, 81% of participating students had a better understanding of environmental issues, 79% believed they increased their civic skills needed to bring about change in the community, and 78% felt their Earth Force experience makes them more passionate about citizenship



Staples associates present LINC TELACU students with school supplies to ensure they begin college with the tools necessary for success.

The Foundation supports Hispanic youth through its partnership with the LINC TELACU Education Foundation, which works to increase the number of Latinos attending college, encourages academic success, and develops socially responsible community leaders. The Foundation supports the College Advisement & Leadership Program (CALP), which provides educational assistance, leadership-training seminars, and job preparation classes to Latino students in the Los Angeles and Chicago areas who receive a LINC TELACU Education Foundation scholarship. The program ensures that after CALP students enter college, they stay motivated and continue to succeed in school and develop career goals.



Partnership accomplishments include:

- Grew CALP program in Los Angeles and extended the partnership to include Chicago
- Increased program resources and offerings available to students to impact greater numbers of Hispanic youth, and support their entry into college
- Provided CALP students with career preparation classes in résumé writing, interviewing skills, and development of career objectives to help graduating LINC scholars successfully transition from college to work
- Provided each CALP student with leadership development opportunities through community service projects designed to instill a sense of community to improve their success beyond the classroom

Doreen Nichols, Director of Associate Relations and Diversity for Staples, presents the Minority Business of the Year Award at the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City Annual Celebration.

cause-related programs

Staples supports Boys & Girls Clubs of America through an annual back to school cause-marketing program called Supplies for School Kids. Through this program, customers donate money to purchase basic school supplies for Boys & Girls Clubs of America members across the country. Since the program began four years ago, Staples has donated over \$2 million in school supplies to Boys & Girls Club youths.

Staples also sells Easy Buttons™ in stores, with 100% of all proceeds — up to \$2 million through the end of fiscal year 2006 — going to Boys & Girls Clubs of America. This program helps support our investment in Boys & Girls Clubs of America.



in-kind support

Since 2004, Staples has donated over \$7.3 million worth of office products to help outfit nonprofit organizations in communities throughout the United States. In Staples stores, managers develop relationships with local charities and donate product on a periodic basis to help fulfill their needs. In addition, Staples Distribution and Fulfillment Centers provide organizations such as SHOPA Kids in Need Resource Centers and Crayons to Computers with much-needed supplies.



Staples associates present members of the Franklin Teen Learning Center Boys & Girls Club in Franklin, TN with a donation of nearly \$4,000 in school supplies that were raised through the store's Supplies for School Kids program

associate involvement

Staples encourages associates to get involved with nonprofit organizations in their local community. The company connects associates interested in giving back with local organizations that have volunteer opportunities matching their personal interests. Staples also teams up associates with their local Boys & Girls Club to enable them to work with these children on a personal level, and to enhance Staples' and Staples Foundation for Learning's national collaboration with Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

Associate involvement was an important component of Staples' entry into the Chicago market in 2005. Staples developed an in-depth community program where each store adopted a local charity and forged an ongoing relationship between associates and the community. Stores participated in "acts of kindness," where associates surprised their adopted charity with a community service project. For example, the Staples store in Mundelein, IL, surprised its charity, OMNI Youth Services, by making over a tutoring room in its Mundelein Resource Center, which offers educational and support services to children of low income, primarily non-English-speaking families. Associates spent an afternoon repainting and stocking the tutoring room with new school supplies, ensuring that youth served through the Resource Center work in a clean, healthy environment and have the tools needed for success.

Staples associates work hard to ensure Supplies for School Kids, which provides much-needed school supplies to Boys & Girls Club members, makes a positive impact on youth.

disaster support

Staples recognizes the importance of helping those in need when disaster strikes. In 2005, to support victims of Hurricane Katrina, Staples worked with nonprofit organizations and government agencies throughout the country to provide school supplies and educational materials for displaced students and devastated schools. In addition, when a tragedy occurs, Staples provides its associates and customers in affected areas with supplies and assistance to help them rebuild their lives.

staples business depot in the community

Staples Business Depot™ is committed to building a stronger, more caring community through various programs throughout Canada. Staples Business Depot has been a proud National Sponsor of Special Olympics Canada since 1996, providing financial and in-kind support to help fund training programs in every province and territory across Canada. In addition, each year customers are invited to Staples Business Depot to help support Special Olympics Canada athletes through the “Give a Dollar. Share a Dream.” program. By giving a donation, customers can help send athletes to the Special Olympics National and World Games. Over the last four years, more than two million dollars has been raised through the “Give a Dollar. Share a Dream.” program.

Each year, Staples Business Depot organizes the National Writing Challenge to promote children’s literacy and raise money for Canadian schools. Each winner’s story is published in the annual Staples Business Depot short story book, which is sold in stores for a limited time each year. Staples Business Depot donates all of the net proceeds from the sale of the book to Canadian schools.

In addition, Staples Business Depot uses store community involvement funds to help meet the needs of hundreds of Canadian community, regional, and national projects and organizations every year. From sports tournaments to educational programs, Staples Business Depot stores are committed to supporting organizations within their local communities.



that was easy.®