

# BOULDER COUNTY BUSINESS REPORT

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## **Crayons to Calculators under way**

By Business Report Staff

BOULDER - Crayons to Calculators, a collaborative annual school supply drive, is gearing up to provide more than 5,000 backpacks of school supplies to students in Boulder Valley and St. Vrain Valley school districts in August.

Together, the two school districts have more than 11,000 students on the federal lunch assistance program, a common indicator of family poverty.

As of press time, 30 Boulder County businesses have joined the Corporate Challenge sponsored by Western Disposal, with support from the Camera, Staples and individuals.

Crayons to Calculators is a partnership among Impact on Education, I Have A Dream Foundation of Boulder County, Sister Carmen Community Center, Foothills United Way, Boulder Valley School District, FISH Inc. of Broomfield, Education Foundation for the St. Vrain Valley and the St. Vrain Valley School District focused on ensuring that all students start school with the supplies they need to succeed.

Last year, Crayons to Calculators provided 4,812 students with a backpack of school supplies.

"In today's economic environment, the challenge is greater than ever," says Francie Anhut, chief executive of Impact on Education. "More students need help at the same time that donations are harder to come by. Western Disposal stepped up their efforts and we hope the community will do so as well."

Crayons to Calculators invites community members to fill a backpack with required supplies and drop off at a collection site, or to donate cash that is used to purchase backpacks and school supplies at cost from Staples. Volunteers assemble the backpacks the first week in August and they are delivered to schools for distribution to students before school starts mid-August.

Supply lists, collection sites and volunteer opportunities can be found on the program's Web site, [www.crayonstocalculators.org](http://www.crayonstocalculators.org).