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By Rachael Van Horn, Woodward News

Back to School Bash coming up at Living Word

It all started with just two women who wanted to ease the pressures associated with preparing to send children back to school in the fall.

The first year Jessica Nelson and Julie Meliza put on their Back To School Bash at Living Word Fellowship, they gave away 60 backpacks filled with school supplies.

Now, 5 years later, Living Word Fellowship and the Woodward Area Coalition have created a whole event that draws more than 500 area students and parents annually and it's already time to prepare again for this year's Back To School Bash, said Nelson, event coordinator and Living Word Fellowship Children's Pastor.

"Last year I gave out 550 back packs with school supplies," Nelson said.

The event is scheduled for July 20th and will take place in the parking lot of the Living Word Fellowship from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

There will be games, inflatable gyms and food galore, she said.

"I think right now, we are just starting to get out the information in our search for sponsors," Nelson said.

Sponsors can choose from an array of different levels to donate including everything from Platinum for \$1,000, Gold from \$500 to \$999, Silver from \$250 to \$499, Bronze from \$100 to \$249 all the way to a "Friend" which is from \$1 to \$99, Nelson said.

Each level includes a different size logo with the sponsors name or business included on the event tee shirt as well as other recognition, Nelson said.

This year already, the event has one platinum sponsor, Nelson's Lawn Service and one gold sponsor, Northwest Eye Associates.

While the event turns out to be a celebration for children ready to reenter the school year, it is really an outreach, Nelson said.

It seems odd and people ask me why I do this when my children don't attend public school, Nelson said. "But as a parent, I know there is a big expense at the beginning of the school year and school supplies is the most expensive of all."