

## **Crayons to Calculators, Collaborative School Supply Drive, Seeks Community Support**

By Amanda Cherry

Although summer is in full-swing, the back-to-school season will be here in no time. For most Boulder Valley students, this means first-day jitters, new outfits and backpacks stuffed with new supplies.

Yet, do you know that over 4000 students in the Boulder Valley School District (BVSD) who are from low-income homes *routinely* begin school without supplies? Not only are these students unprepared, they never experience the excitement of starting school armed with the supplies they need to succeed.

Crayons to Calculators, a collaborative, community-wide school supply drive for students in need, aims to change that. The drive is a partnership among Extras for Education, Family Learning Center, Foothills United Way, "I Have a Dream"® Foundation of Boulder County, Impact on Education and Sister Carmen Community Center. It is sponsored by the Boulder Rotary Club Foundation and Corporate Express and supported by about 15 local financial institutions, corporations and organizations.

Crayons to Calculators aims to ensure that all BVSD students start school ready to learn. But the drive needs the help of the community to do so. Individuals can support the drive by filling a backpack for a student in need. To sign up, log on to [www.CrayonsToCalculators.org](http://www.CrayonsToCalculators.org). Alternatively, individuals can donate cash online or loose supplies at one of about 30 supply drop-off locations. To learn more, log on to the organization's Web site or call (303) 245-5880.

You also may send a check to Crayons to Calculators, care of Impact on Education, 75 Manhattan Drive, Suite 205, Boulder, CO 80303. Together, we can ensure that all BVSD students start school prepared.