



For Immediate Release

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Contact: Jeremy Rathke, VP Development and Communications
512.225.9594 or jrathke@TexasAdvocacyProject.org

**Texas Advocacy Project Launches 10th Backpacks for Hope Campaign
Community Support Needed for Children in Texas Shelters**

Texas Advocacy Project's ("TAP") 10th Annual Backpacks for Hope Campaign runs June 9th–July 16th. Each year, TAP collects new backpacks and school supplies to distribute to children of survivors in domestic violence shelters across Texas. Many of these families fled violent homes with little more than the clothing on their backs. Each backpack is filled with school supplies, safety planning literature, and a discreet tag that lists TAP's toll-free legal line (800-374-HOPE). Finally, the backpacks are shipped to family violence shelters and crisis centers across Texas in time for the school year! For a list of donation sites or to plan your own drive visit www.TexasAdvocacyProject.org/backpacks-hope.

"It's always exciting for us to see how excited [the kids in shelter] are. They smile, sometimes we get cries and laughs, and they're just full of joy."

-Charelle McNary from The Purple Door, a shelter headquartered in Corpus Christi, Texas

On Thursday, July 29th, The Allstate Foundation and local agents will host a Helping Hands® volunteer event in order to fill the donated backpacks with school supplies and prepare them for shipment to shelters. For 13 years, The Allstate Foundation and local agents have invested their time, talent and treasure into TAP – enabling them to provide FREE legal services and access to economic empowerment information to survivors of domestic violence across Texas. Helping Hands® enhances the impact of Allstate agency owners and employees' passion for volunteering by financially supporting the causes and organizations they care about most.

Texas Advocacy Project extends immense gratitude to Cognizant, who made a donation of 1,000 new backpacks, to the eCW Giving Foundation, who made a generous contribution to purchase backpacks as well as tablets for kids to use while in shelter, and The Allstate Foundation and agents, including Scott and DeeDee Biscoe of Biscoe Insurance Group, for their long-standing commitment to helping survivors.

About Texas Advocacy Project

Last year TAP served 4,767 clients, impacting the lives of nearly 10,106 clients and their children. Their mission is to end dating and domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking in Texas. Texas Advocacy Project empowers survivors through free legal services and access to the justice system, and advances prevention through public outreach and education. Details at www.TexasAdvocacyProject.org. If you need help, call 800-374-HOPE.

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