

MARYLAND

Heritage MileOne Autogroup donates \$80,000 to Weekend Backpacks

Baltimore Sun

Heritage MileOne Autogroup has donated a record \$80,000 to Weekend Backpacks Baltimore's food bag program, providing meals for an entire month to local children and their families.

The donation will provide 8,000 bags of food, with each containing enough nourishment for a family of three for the weekend. The donation will enable the delivery of approximately 144,000 nutritious meals, impacting an estimated 24,000 people.

Weekend Backpacks Baltimore officials said the donation is the largest corporate gift the 10-year-old nonprofit has ever received. The new partnership will help provide nutritious weekend meals to families during the first month of the school year.

"The start of the school year can be a particularly challenging time for families as they manage increased expenses for school supplies, clothing, shoes and other necessities. With rising food costs adding to these challenges, reliable access to nutritious weekend meals can provide critical support for children and their



Employees at a MileOne Autogroup dealership pack groceries for schoolchildren and their families. COURTESY OF MILEONE AUTOGROUP

families," said Fred Hassell, executive director of Weekend Backpacks Baltimore.

Heritage MileOne Autogroup's investment will help

thousands of city schoolchildren return to the classroom nourished, focused and ready to learn, while easing the financial burden on families and

demonstrating the company's commitment to strengthening the communities it serves.

Heritage MileOne Autogroup employees and leader-

ship are participating in packing events at multiple dealerships across the Baltimore area to pack 10-pound weekend food bags that will be

taken to Baltimore City schools and distributed to schools.

"By helping reduce roadblocks like food insecurity, we hope to support children and their families, empower students and provide them with the resources they need to succeed," said Amanda Kodeck, chief giving officer for MileOne Autogroup. "This effort also allows our employees to be part of the solution by engaging in hands-on community service and helping make a meaningful difference in the lives of local families."

"Food insecurity can create challenges that extend beyond access to meals, impacting a child's ability to focus, participate and succeed," Hassell said. "Through the support of Heritage MileOne Autogroup and its employees, we can continue providing reliable weekend food resources to families and help remove one more barrier for students as they work toward a successful school year."

David Smith, principal owner of The Baltimore Sun, also holds a controlling interest in MileOne Autogroup, the parent company of the Heritage automotive division.