

MIAMI GARDENS

Office Depot opens, donates kids' backpacks

An Office Depot, which features the company's M2 retail format, opened its doors on March 27.

Miami Herald Staff Report

Office Depot opened its first store in Miami Gardens on March 27.

The company also announced it was donating \$500 and children's backpacks to Amigos for Kids, Miami Rescue Mission and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Miami.

The store, 19400 NW 27th Ave., employs about 20 full-time and part-time employees and houses more than 7,500 technology, furniture and supply products, as well as design, print and shipping services in 18,760 square feet, a company statement said.

According to location manager Lazaro Hernandez, the store features Office Depot's M2 retail format, in which products are grouped in highly visible, strategically located "pods," with core supplies at the outer perimeter of the store and furniture and technology at the center.

The backpack donations are part of the Office Depot Foundation National Backpack Program, which will donate 300,000 new backpacks this year to nonprofit organizations and schools for distribution to children.

By the end of the year, Office Depot will have given away nearly 1.8 million backpacks since the program began in 2001, the statement said.

"Office Depot is strongly committed to enhancing the quality of life in the communities in which our company conducts business," Hernandez said.

"We are excited to open our first store in Miami Gardens and to assist these critically important nonprofit organizations in their efforts to make a meaningful difference in the lives of children and families in this area."

Store hours for the Miami Gardens location are 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday; 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturdays; and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sundays.

The store's number is 305-474-8232.

