



To Whom It May Concern:

As we begin 2025, we are praying and doing all we can to meet the needs of individuals in our communities. We are happy to announce that we will be doing our Back-to-School Program this year. We are hoping that this year, more than ever before, we will be able to assist your church/organization to help those you serve in a low cost, effective manner. Please take time to learn about our “**Hassle-Free Backpack Program**” by going to [www.sctb.org](http://www.sctb.org). Just a reminder, our backpacks are not just for school children but for many uses such as the homeless, mission trips and weekend school feedings.

Who are we? **Somebody Cares Tampa Bay is a local non-profit** that, for the past 28 years, has served the Tampa Bay region with programs which benefit those in need. We distribute food to partners who feed the hungry. We get backpacks and supplies into children’s hands to begin school, as well as help organizations with bags for homeless ministries and mission needs. We also help the elderly, handicapped, single parents, and others who have home repair needs. See [www.sctb.org](http://www.sctb.org) for more information.

It may seem early, but it is time to start thinking about your **backpack outreach programs for 2025!** We, at Somebody Cares Tampa Bay, want to make it easy for you to reach the people of your community and abroad. Our “**Hassle-Free**” backpack program is designed to free up your time to assist the needy. We will do the leg work of collecting the backpacks and supplies. All you need to do is order and get them into the hands of the individuals you are serving. Keep in mind that we also provide backpacks to mission groups for overseas and home-based missions, weekend food program for children, as well as homeless outreach organizations. We are blessed to have seen our backpacks reach those on the streets and in our schools at home and abroad.

The backpacks you receive **retail for \$30 each**, so you are getting a great value and we do the shopping for you! This year we have available our small bags that are custom made for us in a variety of colors. Our large bags will NOT be our custom bag due to no access to get them from China. We are exchanging it for a similar bag but wanted you to know up front when you see the bag. Sorry, but you cannot order by specific color in either size since they arrive in assorted colors.

**FINAL ORDER DEADLINE FOR THE SEASON IS.... JULY 31, 2024**

We are working hard to give you quality products for the price. This year has been difficult in that ALL pricing--bags, supplies, and shipping cost have gone up. Yes, inflation is hitting every aspect of life. We have tried to evaluate how we can keep the price as low as possible and are happy to report that the price is the same from last year. Order prices for backpacks **ONLY** change monthly from **May (\$8.00); June (\$9.00); to July (\$10.00)**. You can also get backpacks with supplies as

Somebody Cares Tampa Bay  
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well. If purchasing bags AND supplies, prices are May (**\$10.50**); June (**11.50**); July (**\$12.50**). I strongly encourage you to order during the **May Early Bird Special** so you can take advantage of the **lowest prices**. **SHOP EARLY AND SAVE!** How can we offer these kinds of prices? We buy in bulk and pass the savings to you!

Please review our order form, which is either attached to this email or accessible through our Back-to-school event page. **Put in your order by May 31<sup>st</sup> to receive the best value for your purchase.** Once you put in your order, we process it, and then set up a time for pick-up from our warehouse in Clearwater in July. If you need it sooner, we will try to arrange that pick-up.

Filled backpacks **may** contain the following school supplies: 2 pencils, paper (wide or college), ruler, glue stick, crayons (small bags), 2 two-pocket folders, and pens (large bags). You get 8-9 items of supplies for the bags you purchase. **If you are just needing supplies only, the cost is \$3.50 per child. This is for the supplies listed above. You can fax, mail, or email the order form but understand that we must have the money in by May 31st to honor the early bird special.**

**\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE...**Those who are ordering out of the Tampa Bay area and not picking up from our location, the price on the order form **DOES NOT** include shipping charges. We cannot calculate the pricing for shipping until we know how many bags and/or supplies are in your order. **Once we ship, you will get an invoice of that cost.** The cost you pay on the order form is ONLY for the bags and/or supplies. Here is an idea of shipping just bags: Less than 216-- .74 each; 240-504 bags-- .60; 528 or more-- .46 each. So please keep this in mind when you calculate your total price. The cost of shipping supplies depends on how much is shipped. We are sorry that we have to tag this onto the price, but shipping has gotten so expensive, and we can't incur that price.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call. We would love the opportunity to serve you in making your outreach a success! If you need additional information on this program, you can visit our website, **[www.sctb.org](http://www.sctb.org)**, or feel free to contact me. I know that new customers need to see the quality, size, etc. before deciding. Please call to request a sample. Also, if you need clear bags because of requirements by your school systems or need another type of bag, I will be happy to try to customize your order. Call for pricing and details of different bag types.

Please let others know about our services. We serve the whole United States. I look forward to serving you in 2025!

Sincerely,

Kathy Bernard  
Back to School Coordinator  
[kathy@sctb.org](mailto:kathy@sctb.org)  
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Grades 6-12 Large bag size: 19" x 9"  
Grades K--5 Small bag size: 16" x 6"  
Both come in assorted colors

**THE EARLY BIRD DEADLINE IS.....MAY 31, 2025**

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