



## **BIC HELPS LOCAL STUDENTS START SCHOOL YEAR OFF "WRITE"**

**December 30, 2016** - This year, BIC adopted five children from Irving Elementary School in Derby, Conn., as part of the Valley United Way Corporate Volunteer Council's annual Back to School Clothes for Kids project. The project provides new clothing to low-income children at the start of the school year in an effort to improve attendance on the first days of school and to boost students' self-esteem and confidence.

Irving School is a high-needs school with about 150 of its 332 K-5 students qualifying for this program. Every eligible child received a bin containing two complete outfits, a pair of sneakers and socks, a coat, underwear, a toothbrush and toothpaste, and a backpack full of school supplies. In addition, BIC donated 150 backpacks filled with supplies and two pallets of stationery products for all students and teachers to use throughout the year.

The CVC is a coalition of more than 50 Valley businesses that provides resources for large community impact projects. Since it began in 1996, the Back to School Clothes for Kids program has supported nearly 3,000 children and invested \$604,940 in Valley youth. BIC has participated in the program since 2009.