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**NEWS RELEASE
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Osborn Maledon's 20-year commitment to Homeward Bound



The backpack that Lindsay Jensen and Patty Palmer were stuffing with dictionaries and school supplies was full to the top. They struggled to close the zipper.

“We love Homeward Bound,” said Lindsay, a legal assistant at the Phoenix law firm of Osborn Maledon, P.A. “Instead of a handout, Homeward Bound teaches people how to get back on their feet.”

This year, the back-to-school backpack project, which the firm sponsors every year for Homeward Bound, will provide 31 crammed-full backpacks, each one valued between \$100-\$150. They are stuffed with school supplies, new clothes and a pair of new shoes, all selected according to the needs of a child in a Homeward Bound family.

Lindsay Jensen and Patty Palmer, also a legal assistant at the firm, organize the drive each year.

“This is a fun project and everyone really enjoys it.” said Patty,

Osborn Maledon has a long history of donating to Homeward Bound, which provides transitional housing, case management and supportive services to Maricopa County homeless families with children.

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The firm first became involved in the program in 1991 when Debbie Hill, a former Osborn Maledon attorney--and a Speakers’ Bureau volunteer for Homeward Bound, decided to practice her community presentation to members of her law firm.

The firm became the first Phoenix law firm to sponsor a family and has continued to actively participate in sponsoring families, which include back-to-school drives and holiday gift collections.

Pamela Martin, president of Homeward Bound, said Osborn Maledon’s commitment has been extraordinary: “In a time when Homeward Bound, like many nonprofits, is ‘sandwiched’ between greater need and fewer resources, our ability to sustain our current level of quality programs and services is directly related to our supporters in the community.

“Since 1991, the law firm of Osborn Maledon has been in the ‘trenches’ with the agency—sponsoring families, funding programs, providing volunteers, lending pro bono legal services, serving on the Board, and most importantly, caring about some of our community’s most fragile families.”

She added, “The firm is an exceptional role model of corporate philanthropy! We are deeply appreciative of this almost two decade-old friendship.”

The firm has donated tens of thousands of dollars to Homeward Bound families—no one knows exactly how much. Collecting dollars for the families is a firm-wide activity. All year long, the firm offers casual dress days on Fridays, and firm employees donate to a Homeward Bound fund if they’d like to participate. Every year, the firm, its lawyers and its staff, sponsor families during the winter holiday. And every year, they provide back-to-school help for children of the families supported by Homeward Bound. Last year, the firm’s winter holiday card highlighted the firm’s support for the organization.

Lindsay and Patty said the work the firm does with Homeward Bound is fulfilling to everyone involved.

The families benefit from the donations, and Osborn Maledon lawyers and staff benefit from knowing they have helped a family dealing with a rough financial situation get back on track.

“It warms your heart when you receive the thank you letters from the children and it also gives us inspiration to continue to contribute the following year,” Lindsay said.

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Osborn Maledon, P.A. is a Phoenix law firm of 50 attorneys that provides litigation, business and general counsel solutions for its clients.