

NEWS RELEASE

United Way of
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JACKSON COUNTY RISES TO ‘STUFF THE BUS’ CHALLENGE, GATHERS 10,724 BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Items Distributed to Children through Local Schools, Special Events

JACKSON, Michigan [Aug. 20, 2018] – Jackson County residents rallied to help vulnerable families prepare their children for school by donating 10,724 back-to-school supplies during last week’s Stuff The Bus event.

Items gathered to help kids start school with the right supplies included 815 backpacks, 1,325 glue sticks or bottles, 1,140 folders, 3,000 pencils, 933 notebooks, 836 markers, 470 rulers, 445 scissors, 388 erasers, 371 boxes of crayons, 264 colored pencils, 241 pencil cases, 97 pens, 70 packets of paper, 47 dry-erase packs, 44 pencil sharpeners, 26 highlighters, 24 binders, plus 188 hygiene items such as tissues, hand sanitizer, cleaning wipes and soap.

Four organizations plus eight sponsors led the Aug. 13-17 supply drive, which featured 20 dropbox locations and six collection events throughout the county. The four partners included United Way of Jackson County, the Jackson Human Relations Commission, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in Jackson County, and the Martin Luther King Community Center.

Items are being distributed to students through local school districts, the DHHS foster care youth program, and the Back to School Bash at the King Center—the latter of which served 600 kids at the Aug. 19 event.

According to the National Retail Federation, back-to-school purchases are taking an ever-bigger bite out of household budgets. On average, standard school supplies alone—not including clothing or electronics—cost families 47 percent more this year than a decade ago.

“Once again, Jackson County rises to the challenge of helping vulnerable families and children. On behalf of the partners and sponsors of Stuff The Bus, thank you for your generous support,” said Ken Toll, President and CEO of United Way of Jackson County.

Sponsors of Stuff The Bus include the four partner organizations plus Buffalo Wild Wings, County National Bank, Flagstar, Henry Ford Allegiance Health, Home.fm 106.9, Jackson County Intermediate School District, TAC Manufacturing, and Two Men And A Truck.

About United Way of Jackson County

United Way of Jackson County mobilizes people, organizations and funds to create a community rich in opportunities to eliminate poverty and allow all people to achieve financial stability and success. We are committed to helping 5,000 Jackson County residents develop a pathway to financial success by 2025. Visit our website at uwjackson.org, or follow us on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram.

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