

# NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

United Way  
of Fort Smith Area



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- Education
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## United Way Stuffs the Bus with School Supplies

(July 23, 2011, FORT SMITH, AR) — Even though the temperature's were over 100 degrees this weekend, that didn't keep United Way from stuffing bus with school supplies. Supplies were collected for the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Stuff the Bus drive on Friday, July 22 and Saturday July 23 at Walmart stores in Alma, Booneville, Fort Smith, Greenwood, Ozark, Paris, Poteau, Sallisaw and Van Buren. **Over 37,500 packages of supplies were collected!!**

Items donated included pens, pencils, paper, crayons, scissors, glue, notebooks, backpacks, kindergarten mats and many other items. Supply lists were handed out at each location and were also posted inside each store at the supply kiosks. The drive was held in conjunction with Walmart's annual back to school sale.

"Many families cannot afford school supplies for their children, and this presents a serious challenge for teachers and school districts, said Tom Minton, Executive Director of United Way of Fort Smith Area. The donated supplies help to raise the quality of education children receive and also help to raise a child's self esteem. United Way is grateful to each of the volunteers and to the generous donors who helped make this year's event another great success,"

Volunteers worked shifts on Friday and Saturday helping to hand out flyers and count and sort supplies. The event lasted from 9 am to 9 pm on Friday and from 8 am to 1 pm on Saturday. Many area businesses also collected supplies at their offices including Golden Living, Weldon, Williams & Lick, Rheem, Kraft/Planters, Owens Corning, Liberty Bank.

Brent Alexander, volunteer from Tyson said "It is a pleasure to be able help out the community!! Ronnette Haynes, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher at Rena Elementary said "It's all about the kids! During these rough economic times it is good to see so many people willing to help the children!!"

All of the supplies collected are distributed to school districts and partner agencies throughout United Way's six-county service area.

**A special thank you to WalMart for allowing United Way to host this event at its stores throughout the region.**

United Way of Fort Smith Area serves Crawford, Franklin, Logan and Sebastian counties in Arkansas and LeFlore and Sequoyah counties in Oklahoma. Its mission is to improve lives by connecting people and resources in its six-county area.

Serving Western Arkansas and Eastern Oklahoma  
Crawford · Franklin · Logan · Sebastian · LeFlore · Sequoyah Counties