

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

United Way
of Fort Smith Area



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Stuff the Bus July 27 and 28 with school supplies

- Ensuring Children Succeed
- Building Adult Independence
- Building Strong Communities

(July 11, FORT SMITH, AR) — Many children look forward to arriving on the first day of school with new notebooks, backpacks and pencil boxes, but it's a different story for children whose families can't afford these items. On July 27-28, United Ways of Northwest Arkansas, Fort Smith Area and the River Valley are asking you to help them stuff a bus full of supplies to be donated to at-risk children. Donations of new school supplies will be accepted at area Wal-Mart stores and other locations. Look for the school bus.

If everyone could pick up some of the items listed on the school supply list on their way to the checkout and drop it by the bus, it would make a huge difference to needy kids when classes begin. Volunteers will be staffing the buses to assist patrons who wish to donate supplies. A complete list of suggested items can be picked up at the each site.

Not only do the donated supplies help children with their studies, having a new backpack or notebook can really help raise a child's self-esteem. Feeling good about themselves and having the tools they need to complete their schoolwork really helps children get off on the right foot as they start a new school year.

United Way is teaming up with schools and agencies in the area where the supplies will be distributed. Any new school supplies will be welcome. Most needed are backpacks, binders with dividers, ruled pads and spiral notebooks, pocket folders, markers, crayons, pens and pencils.

For more information, contact Sarah Fowler, Resource Development Director Outlying Area, at 479-782-1311 or sarah.fowler@unitedway.org.