



September 20, 2009

'Stuff the Bus' distributes school supplies

Marion Star Staff Report

MARION - As a strategy in their Education initiative, the United Way of Marion County recently collected 30 boxes with more than 1,800 back-to-school supplies through its first-ever "Stuff the Bus" community campaign.

The supplies were passed on to all of the Marion city and county school districts.

The event was designed to provide families, who may not otherwise have the means, to access supplies needed for their children to be successful in school.

North Central Ohio Educational Service Center Assistant Superintendent Terry Conley has seen firsthand the stress some parents face when presented with this expense.

"Donating school supplies is a win-win situation for the community," Conley said in a press release. "Families struggling with loss of or inadequate income to meet their expenses can get the help they need to ensure that their children have the tools to begin school and the community gets a great feeling, knowing that they have made a difference in children's lives."

Helping to collect the items were Act Two Studio, Children Services, ConAgra, the Gathering Place, Marion Community Credit Union, The Marion Star, Marion Technical College, the Palace, Smith Clinic, TRECA, U.S. Yachiyo and hundreds of Marion County employees and residents.

Supplies donated include: folders, glue, spiral notebooks, pencil boxes, pencils, scissors, notebook paper, 3-ring binders, crayons, colored pencils, erasers, colored markers, highlighters, rulers, book bags, and backpacks.

"Education is so vitally important in trying to positively and permanently impact a community," United Way of Marion County Executive Director Pam Stone said.

"In a very real sense, it's the key to changing anything, and I want to thank Marion County for being so incredibly generous and taking one more step toward that change."

The school supplies are limited and will be distributed by school personnel. Parents should contact their local school offices for more information.

Contact 740-383-3108 or visit www.unitedwaymarion.org for more information.