



Dear Business Leader:

We need your help! It is time for the annual **STUFF THE BUS** school supply campaign.

There are students in our community who cannot afford basic school supplies. Every day teachers willingly dip into their own pockets to buy school supplies for their students in need. We will be supporting these teachers and children in need by collecting new school supplies for our Tools for Schools resource center, a free school supply store that provides essential classroom items for students in Harford County Public Schools.

In Harford County, over 10,000 students in our public schools are economically disadvantaged and receive free and reduced meals (FaRMs). FaRMs is a federal indicator of poverty. Economically disadvantaged children don't necessarily have the needed school supplies essential for quality learning and the rigorous instruction necessary for the demands of our current economy and workforce. It is estimated that teachers spend an average of \$500 - \$1,000 of their own money to buy school supplies for their students in need.

To help all children find educational success, we will be hold our annual **STUFF THE BUS** campaign to stock GEEF's Tools for Schools resource center. We would like to have the resource center stocked and ready by August 21 in order for us to have school supplies on the desk of every child in need on the first day of school. Our goal this year is to serve 3000 students.

Suggested school supplies include: pencils, pens, colored pencils, washable markers, crayons, blunt edge scissors, glue sticks, bottle glue, notebook paper, erasers, two pocket folders with brads, 1 1/2" binders, binder separators, binder zippered pencil pouches, plastic pencil cases, index cards, dry erase markers, dry erasers, protractors, highlighters, composition books and backpacks. Quart and Gallon zip storage bags are also helpful.

Please complete the attached School Supply Commitment form and return the form. **A collection box will be delivered to your business by July 24. There will be two pick-up dates to collect donated school supplies – August 18 and September 15.** School supplies are needed throughout the school year. Contact us at debmerlock@geefinc.com if you have additional donations.

We look forward to your participation and ensuring that all students have the resources to be successful in school and in life!

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debora Gavin Merlock".

Debora Gavin Merlock
Harford County Education Foundation
President

School Supply Commitment

Please complete the following information if you are interested in helping students in Harford County Public Schools get basic school supplies.

Organization Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

School Supply Drive:

- Yes**, our organization is interested in donating school supplies for the Tools for Schools resource center where teachers can shop for free for students in need. We pledge to hold a collection drive and/or make a financial contribution of \$_____ toward the purchase of school supplies.

School Supply Donation:

- Yes**, our organization is interested in donating school supplies directly to the Tools for Schools resource center.

Individual School Backpacks:

- Yes**, our organization is interested in donating student backpacks filled with school supplies. We pledge to donate _____# of backpacks and deliver them to the Tools for Schools resource center or arrange for pickup at 410-322-7743.

Please contact Deb Merlock at 410-322-7743 or deb@harfordeducation.org with any questions.
Please email the completed form to deb@harfordeducation.org or mail to:

Harford County Education Foundation, 260 Gateway Drive, Suite 21A, Bel Air, MD 21014
We appreciate, in advance, your interest in this worthwhile program!