



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Education Foundation’s Stuff the Bus Campaign is Underway**

*Collection for school supplies is organized by Harford County Education Foundation (formerly Greater Excellence in Education Foundation) and will provide financially challenged Harford County students with needed classroom items.*



**Bel Air, MD** [August 14, 2017] — Each year educators spend hundreds of dollars of their own money to provide school supplies for students who are unable to afford basic learning materials. For the past twelve years, local businesses, educational institutions, and civic organizations have partnered with Harford County Education Foundation by collecting much needed supplies through its Stuff the Bus Campaign. Donated school supplies are picked up from businesses, then sorted, counted, packed and delivered to Harford County Public Schools for students in need before the first day of school.

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“Helping a child start off on the right foot on day one builds their self-esteem and assists in their learning process,” said Warren Hamilton, Education Foundation Board Chair.

School supplies are also used to stock the Education Foundation’s Tools for Schools Resource Center. The Tools for Schools Resource Center is located in Bel Air, where teachers from Harford County Public Schools shop, free of charge, for school supplies for their economically challenged students.

“Who knows better than teachers what supplies their students require to succeed?” asked Deb Merlock, President of Harford County Education Foundation. “We are the year-round resource in providing school supplies to students in need. The number of students that live in poverty and are even homeless in the district is staggering and it is vitally important to equip these students with the resources they need to build confidence in learning.”

By donating to a centralized resource center, Harford County Education Foundation is able to maximize the number of students served by allocating resources based on need. It is by this method that the Resource Center can ensure each child is provided the right school supplies, and that no child in need is turned away due to a shortage of resources.

**Items needed for the Stuff the Bus campaign includes:**

- Pencils (regular and colored), Pens, Markers (washable and dry erase)
- Crayons, Highlighters
- Blunt edge scissors, Protractors, Compasses, Erasers
- Glue sticks and white glue bottles
- Loose leaf paper, Index cards, Composition notebooks
- Two-pocket folders, 1 1/2" and 3" binders, Binder Dividers
- Zippered pencil pouches (including binder pencil pouches), Plastic pencil cases
- Backpacks
- USB drives, Graphing calculators
- Plastic zip storage bags (quart and gallon size)
- Tissues, Hand sanitizer

**Collection sites for Stuff the Bus donations are located in the following Harford County businesses through September 15**

A Bright Idea \* Applebees Restaurant - Aberdeen \* Advanced Eye Care \*  
APG Federal Credit Union \* Armstrong Ceilings \* The Arena Club \* Aruba Sun & Spa \* BB&T  
Bank \* Beacon Staffing Alternatives, Inc. \* Bel Air Athletic Club \* Bel Air Orthodontics \*  
Bright Oaks Pediatric \* Chesapeake Bank of Maryland \* Cummings & Co. Realtors \*  
Department of Emergency Services \* Drayer Physical Therapy \* Edward Jones \* Express  
Employment Professionals \* First National Bank \* Freedom Federal Credit Union \* Gold Medal  
Physical Therapy \* Har-Co Credit Union \* Harford Bank \* Harford County Chamber of  
Commerce Harford County Public Library \* Harford County Public Schools -Hickory Ave. \*

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Harford Mutual Insurance Company \* Howard Bank \* Jones Junction \* Klein's/Shoprite-Main St. \* McFaul Activities Center \* New Destiny Evangelistic Church \* Planet Fitness \* Point Breeze Credit Union \* PNC Bank-Bel Air South Raytheon \* Stringfellow Management Group \* Sunny Day Café \* TIC Gums \* Towson University - Northeastern \* The Yards at Fieldside Village \* Total Urgent Care \* Weyrich, Cronin and Sorra, CPA \* Y- Ward Family Center - Abingdon

School supply donations can also be made directly to Harford County Education Foundation by emailing [connect@harfordeducation.org](mailto:connect@harfordeducation.org). Monetary donations are accepted at [www.harfordeducation.org/donations](http://www.harfordeducation.org/donations).

Harford County Education Foundation donated \$29,000 in school supplies to Harford County classrooms in 2016, and since its formation in 2004, has also awarded more than a hundred-thousand dollars in college scholarships to deserving students. In addition to scholarships and supplies, the Education Foundation offers other valuable resources for the county's 37,000 students such as the SMILE Leadership Conference; LEAD for Tomorrow high school leadership program; Books in Hand Summer Learning Program; TECH Tools, Classroom Innovation Grants, and the Connect to A Classroom initiative that gives businesses in the community the opportunity to directly donate funds toward an innovative classroom project or need.

For more information about Harford County Education Foundation, visit [www.harfordeducation.org](http://www.harfordeducation.org).

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### **About Harford County Education Foundation**

Founded in 2004, Harford County Education Foundation (formerly Greater Excellence in Education Foundation) is a 501c3 nonprofit education organization that provides programs and resources to compliment the learning and growth of the 37,000 youth in Harford County Public Schools. The Education Foundation works in partnership with the community to bring critical resources to help students succeed in their academic and personal goals through middle and high school leadership programs, college and career mentoring, scholarships, free school supplies for low income students, grants to support innovative classroom instruction and celebrating the education profession with the community.

**Photo Caption:** Bel Air Orthodontics creatively hosts their Stuff the Bus collection drive.

Pictured: First row: Brandi DeMarr, Melissa Graham and Colleen Mitrega.

Top Row: Dr. Stephen Godwin, Sara Bender, Helen Godwin and Katie Mongan

Photo courtesy of Bel Air Orthodontics