



FIRST DAY FUND

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, July 1, 2011

First Day Fund Asks for Help to Reach Goal by Start of School and Announces Stuff the Bus Drive

The First Day Fund, a community program that has been providing roughly 1,500 school-starter packs to Springfield students every year since 1993, is asking for donations to help fill requests for nearly 1,850 packs this year.

The organization serves students in the Springfield, Pawnee, and Auburn school districts, said the Rev. Dr. John Charlton III of Harvard Park Baptist Church in Springfield and director of the First Day Fund.

“We have received donations to purchase only 1,550 school-starter kits, but demand is higher this year,” said Dr. Charlton. First Day Fund organizers will begin purchasing supplies in early July. Also, a “Stuff-the-Bus” drive will take place on July 23 and 24 at the Wal-Mart off of South Sixth Street from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Packs will be assembled during a volunteer packing day, Thursday July 28, at Bill Matthews Auto Body, 750 North Street.

Some packs will be delivered to Springfield’s balanced-calendar schools, Graham and Southern View Elementary Schools, in mid-July. However, most requests will be filled by the first day of school on August 22.

The packs, which cost about \$20 per child, are purchased solely with funds from community donations. Students from kindergarten through high school are eligible.

Donations may be made to the “First Day Fund” and sent to 2401 S. Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois, 62703. The First Day Fund is a not-for-profit organization that will provide tax-deductible receipts upon request. In addition to donations, volunteers for the two packing days also are needed.

For more information about the First Day Fund, contact:

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