

8-12-2008

Press release : 2008 : 08 : 12 : Campus Volunteers Help Midtown Children

Melanie Marquez

Follow this and additional works at: https://digital.usfsp.edu/usfsp_news_press_releases

Recommended Citation

Marquez, Melanie, "Press release : 2008 : 08 : 12 : Campus Volunteers Help Midtown Children" (2008). *USFSP News and Press Releases*. 750.

https://digital.usfsp.edu/usfsp_news_press_releases/750

This Other is brought to you for free and open access by the University Advancement at Digital USFSP. It has been accepted for inclusion in USFSP News and Press Releases by an authorized administrator of Digital USFSP.

Campus Volunteers Help Midtown Children



Filed under [Press Releases](#), [eNews Newsletter](#) on Tuesday, August 12, 2008 by Author: Melanie Marquez.

Story by James Kneblik

A group of volunteers from USF St. Petersburg met on campus to fill backpacks with school supplies for Midtown-area children going back to school this fall.

Eight USF St. Petersburg volunteers stuffed backpacks Aug. 7 and donated them to the Junior League of St. Petersburg's Back-to-School Care Fair in Midtown Aug. 9. The 12th annual event was held at the Johnnie Ruth Clarke Health Center, a convenient location for health examinations for Midtown residents.

R. Barry McDowell, coordinator of volunteer and student disability services at USF St. Petersburg, said, "You always feel good when you're able to give. That's the essence of volunteering. Sometimes the volunteers get more out of it than the recipients; so it's a real win-win,"

School supplies are only a portion of what the Back-to-School Care Fair offered the Midtown community. Families attending the event received health, dental and vision screening, immunizations, and physical examinations.

Jennifer Maxwell, president of JLSP, said the event embodies the purpose and mission of the organization.

"What we'd like to do is give each child a backpack stocked with school supplies, that they literally can go to school the first day and not have to purchase anything," Maxwell said.

USF St. Petersburg volunteers filled 23 backpacks with pens, pencils, notebooks, rulers, glue and other academic necessities. These backpacks were added to thousands of others for the JLSP event.

"We give upwards of 2,500 backpacks every Care Fair," Maxwell said.

The College of Arts and Sciences, Human Resources, the College of Marine Science, and the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library were collection sites for school supplies.

"Even with a bad economy and the state of our financial situation, the campus has done a lot," McDowell said.

Denelta Henry, a volunteer and College of Marine Science employee, said she is able to give back because other people helped her along the way, and it's a pleasure to do the same.

"We chose to be a part of this because it is a great thing and it's needed because there are a lot of families who are in great need and are struggling to carry their kids through school," Henry said.

When the school supply drive began, College of Marine Science staff members made a cardboard school-bus style collection bin.

Desiree Woroner, College of Marine Science Human Resources Administrator, said the college response increased over last year and faculty, staff and students filled the donation bin several times. Though available to everyone, the back-to-school event has historically served Midtown and Child Park residents.

"The Midtown Economic Development Department of the city is actually the portion of the city that supports us. It's directly related to the neighborhood," Maxwell said.

Nearly 50 agencies were also available for families during the event.

"We provide services for the students and the families at no charge," Maxwell said. "That's something they can't get elsewhere."

Related Articles

There are no related articles.

IMPLEMENTED BY
USFSP WEB SERVICES

Search For: Search In: 



USF St. Petersburg - 140 Seventh Avenue South, St. Petersburg Florida 33701-5016 -- 727-USF-4USF
Copyright © 2003, University of South Florida - Direct questions or comments about the web site to: www@stpt.usf.edu