

*Teachers must dig deep into their pockets so students from families in need have the school supplies required for learning.*

*That's why Crayons to Classrooms collects and distributes basic school supplies – at no cost – to teachers of children in need.*



**“If I break this pencil in half  
to help two students in need,  
which student gets the half  
with the eraser?”**

– Elementary school teacher, Dayton, Ohio



Tools For Teachers, Success For Students



## Crayons to Classrooms: Dayton's only free store for teachers

### We serve under-funded teachers and economically disadvantaged students in Dayton-area schools

Crayons to Classrooms is a nonprofit teacher resource center that helps under-funded teachers from low-income schools in the Dayton region obtain free school supplies for their economically disadvantaged students. Supplies are provided at no cost to teachers, families or schools.

Crayons to Classrooms believes no child should go to school without the basic supplies needed for learning. We also believe if teachers and students have the tools to succeed – they will.

### Students participate in the National School Lunch Program

Ultimately, our goal is to serve all high-need, K-12 schools in the Dayton region – those with 70 percent or more students participating in the National School Lunch Program. Because these students live in poverty, basic school supplies are a luxury. If parents are struggling to provide food for their children, they are unable to buy notebooks, pens and other supplies essential for academic achievement.

In 2010, there were 88 high-need, K-12 schools in the Dayton region, with 26,500 students participating in the National School Lunch program. Currently, however, Crayons to Classrooms has the resources to serve only those schools with the greatest need.

As we work toward our goal, our objective is steady, careful growth to ensure we continue to provide the best possible shopping experiences and supplies for teachers. Based on trends, the number of high-need, K-12 schools will continue to increase.

### School supplies come from many sources

Crayons to Classrooms stocks the free store for teachers by collecting donations of new, surplus, closeout or other available school supplies. We provide some schools with pre-assembled school box kits, paid for by individuals and companies that want to sponsor a classroom, grade, school or multiple schools.

As an affiliate of the Kids in Need National Network of Resource Centers, Crayons to Classrooms also receives school supplies donated to the Kids in Need Foundation by manufacturers and retailers. Crayons to Classrooms was invited to become part of this exclusive network because of our stability and efficiency, among other criteria.

## The impact on teachers and students is significant

### Teachers save money

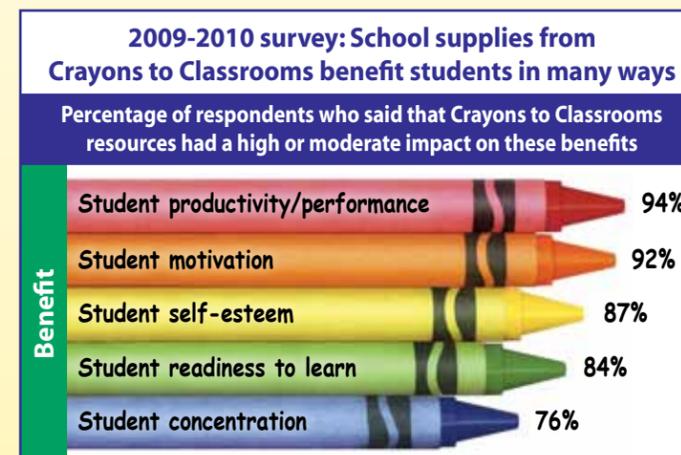
- Teachers who shop take back school supplies worth more than \$500.
- Teachers can save more than \$1,000 in out-of-pocket expenses if they shop twice a year.

### Teachers can spend more time teaching

- They can better manage their time in the classroom.
- They can teach more creatively by turning a lesson into an experience.
- They can reward more students on the spot.

### Economically disadvantaged students are put on a level playing field with their peers

- Their confidence increases.
- Their attitudes toward learning improve.
- They are more ready to learn.
- They get to work faster.
- They feel successful.
- Their grades go up.



Data based on a survey of teachers and principals who visited the free store during the 2009-2010 school year

### The entire classroom improves

When teachers distribute supplies, it's like a holiday in the classroom. Students are overwhelmed and appreciative. For many, it's the first time they've ever received school supplies of their own. Teachers often use their Crayons to Classrooms experience to share a lesson on giving and receiving.

## Crayons to Classrooms

in Dayton, Ohio, operates a free store and invites teachers from eligible schools to "shop" for essential school supplies to give to their students.

## There is no catch.

### how we began

- March 2008:** Crayons to Classrooms was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
- May 2009:** Pilot program with eight schools completed.
- September 2009:** Grand opening celebrated.
- Crayons to Classrooms quickly made a significant impact.**
- June 2010 (after the 2009-2010 school year):**
  - Merchandise distributed: \$520,000
  - Schools served: 23
  - Students served: 8,915

See our current report card at [www.dc2c.org](http://www.dc2c.org)



## teachers are amazed ...

*"When I carried the bags of supplies into my classroom, my students asked if I had won the lottery. I said, 'Yes, because of the kindness of many.' I was able to provide my students a true picture of generosity without strings."*

– Julie M. Raiff, The Gardendale Academy

*"I have two classrooms to supply ... and I have a rolling crate full of books and supplies that I carry back and forth between both buildings because there are not enough supplies to keep at both schools. Your generosity literally lightened my load."*

– Jeff Sherby, Louise Troy PreK-8 School, Westwood PreK-8 School

*"I usually spend thousands of dollars each year on pencils, crayons, paper and other items. Your donations have helped defray my costs and taught my students a valuable lesson about giving back."*

– Colette Stockum, Patterson/Kennedy PreK-8 School

*"It's a blessing to hear teachers talk while they shop. I've heard things like 'this would be a great notebook for Quinn' or 'Lamia needs this folder.' Teachers have chosen warm coats for cold children and personal care items for those who may come from homes where there is no running water."*

– Cheryl M. Owens, principal, The Gardendale Academy

## Teachers can shop for free at least twice a year

Eligible teachers can shop on designated days at our clean, well-organized, retail-style free store.

### Available are:

- Basic supplies
- Incentives such as stickers, erasers, calendars, highlighters and other prizes to motivate individual students or entire classrooms
- Specialty items for science fairs, art competitions and classroom-wide projects
- Coats and personal care items

Crayons to Classrooms invites teachers to shop because studies show they spend \$500 to \$1,000 of their own money each year to purchase school supplies for their neediest students.

- The 1,760 teachers in our region's 88 high-need, K-12 schools in 2010 spent at least \$880,000 that year.
- Crayons to Classrooms helps to alleviate this ever-increasing burden on our teachers.



## students are grateful ...

*"Thank you so much for all the school supplies! We really needed them. My favorites are the markers, dictionaries and the notebooks. You are the best helpers ever."*

– De'Liel S.

*"If I didn't have any supplies, who would I turn to? Crayons to Classrooms. They are the people to give me and my classmates the supplies we need to work. Without them we would have nothing to work with."*

– Jordan O.





## Partners like you make it possible

**Crayons to Classrooms, which receives no government or social services funding, helps teachers and students by relying on many generous partners – like you.**



### how you can help

**If teachers cannot afford to buy school supplies for their students in need, students go without.** That's why we need your help.

**Ultimately, our goal is to serve all high-need, K-12 schools in the Dayton region** – those with 70 percent or more students participating in the National School Lunch Program.

**But we're not there yet.**

**To reach our goal and serve more teachers and students,** we must increase our funding stream and collect even more donated, high-quality school supplies for our store.

#### Get involved with Crayons to Classrooms:

- Learn more at [www.dc2c.org](http://www.dc2c.org).
- Join the conversation on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.
- Schedule a private tour of our free store.
- Organize a supply drive.
- Volunteer in our store.

#### Donate money or products:

- All contributions stay right in our neighborhoods and are tax deductible.
- You can help us add more schools to the program, restock our shelves and get at-risk children ready to learn.

### Individual and corporate donors give cash or products

These tax-deductible contributions help us restock our shelves. Vendors that make or sell school supplies also donate products.

### Organizations host school supply drives

Businesses, office buildings, retailers, nonprofit partners, sports teams, community groups and churches volunteer to collect and deliver school supplies to our store.

### Companies donate equipment and services in-kind

Vendors that donate printing, advertising and professional services help us keep our operating costs low.

### Community members and teachers volunteer their time

Volunteers meet and greet teachers, help with check-in and checkout, provide customer service, assist with data entry, organize and stock shelves, and sort inventory. Help is needed year-round. People say volunteering at Crayons to Classrooms is easy, rewarding and fun.

Community members and teachers also can volunteer to earn shopping trips. Contact Crayons to Classrooms for more information.

### Goodwill Easter Seals Miami Valley is a key partner

Our free store for teachers is located inside the Goodwill Easter Seals headquarters in Dayton. In addition to providing warehouse, retail and office space at below-market rates, Goodwill Easter Seals provides back office support such as accounting and bookkeeping, a telephone system and technology network, design and marketing services, access to a fleet of trucks for pickup services, and material handling and unloading services. This support helps us minimize our overhead expenses so we can maximize the amount of supplies we provide for students in need.

### Teachers request these items most often



- Pencils
- Pens
- Crayons (24 count)
- Glue sticks
- Filler paper
- Construction paper
- Folders
- Scissors
- Rulers
- Markers
- Notebooks
- Facial tissue



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*Crayons to Classrooms is a community initiative launched by The Dayton Foundation.*

