



Tools For Teachers, Success For Students

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Crayons to Classrooms Will Receive Local Donations From The Walgreens Back To School Supply Drive

- *Walgreens stores across the country will accept donations from July 28 to Aug. 24*
- *Donated school supplies will be distributed to students in communities surrounding the stores*

DAYTON, OHIO – JULY 25, 2013 – Crayons to Classrooms, a charitable organization where teachers obtain free school supplies for students in need, will be the recipient locally of school supply donations made at Walgreens stores during their Back To School Supply Drive.

From July 28 through Aug. 24, Walgreens customers nationwide can donate new school supplies and other classroom materials by placing their donations in the in-store collection bins. Students' and teachers' wish lists include basic school supplies, such as paper, crayons, scissors, pencils, pens, glue, markers, folders, and erasers, as well as other items used in classrooms every day, such as tissues and hand sanitizers. The drugstores offer a wide selection of must-have and wished-for items that customers can choose to purchase and donate.

For the second year, Walgreens teamed up with The Kids In Need Foundation, a national non-profit organization dedicated to providing free school supplies to economically disadvantaged school-children and under-funded teachers. Since Dayton Crayons to Classrooms is an affiliate of the Kids In Need Foundation, all supplies from area stores will be provided to them for distribution to the teachers and students served locally.

“Walgreens purpose is to help people get, stay and live well, and we’re pleased to share this through our community commitment,” said John Gremer director of community affairs at Walgreens. “With the help

of our stores, employees and customers, we can all work together to help thousands of students start the school year prepared to succeed.”

“This is a big project, and we commend Walgreens for being willing to sponsor this effort,” said Dave Smith, executive director of the Kids In Need Foundation. “When families are struggling to feed and clothe their children, school supplies are not their top priority, even though they understand they are sorely needed. Cuts in budgets mean schools are not filling the gap. Many teachers spend money out of their own pockets to supplement the needs of their students, just so kids can try to keep up with school work. We are pleased to be able to pass along Walgreens’ generosity to Dayton Crayons to Classrooms.”

"This drive allows many less fortunate children to have essential supplies necessary to be successful in school," said Steve Rubenstein, executive director, Crayons to Classrooms. "There are many of us that remember how exciting it was to purchase new notebooks, crayons, and pens and pencils that signaled the start of a new school year. There are far too many children in our community who do not get that experience. We are thrilled that Walgreens is supporting Crayons to Classrooms via this important campaign."

More and more children need help to be fully prepared for the classroom. In 2010, the latest year for which statistics are available, school cafeterias served more than five billion lunches, with more than half being supplied free or at a reduced cost, according to the USDA's Economic Research Service. This means that one out of every two school-age children in the United States is at or below what the USDA considers poverty level.

Statistics show that there are an estimated 27,800 students in the greater Dayton area that will return to school this year without basic school supplies. Approximately 1,860 under-funded teachers in 79 schools will be responsible to serve the educational needs of these children.

Last year, the Kids In Need Foundation mobilized thousands of volunteers across the country to collect the donations at the Walgreens stores and then distribute them to students in their own communities. Taking part in the collection of supplies from the stores means Crayons to Classrooms will be able to provide these supplies to the teachers and students served locally.

Dave Smith said consumers might be surprised to learn that many children have never owned their own notebooks or pencils or crayons. “Think what it must be like for these students to have to worry everyday about how they are going to do their work in the classroom or their homework in the evening,” Smith

said. “Children should have every opportunity to succeed in the classroom, not be held back by circumstances over which they have no control, and the Walgreens Back To School Supply Drive helps to provide those opportunities.”

About Crayons to Classrooms

Crayons to Classrooms is a free resource center for teachers from under-funded K-12 schools serving children who live in poverty in the Miami Valley area of Ohio. In partnership with local businesses, individual donors, and community volunteers, Dayton’s Crayons to Classrooms (DC2C) lifts at-risk children’s level and love of learning by providing them the basic school supplies that are essential to academic achievement at no cost to the children’s teachers, families, or schools. DC2C is located in the Goodwill Easter Seals Miami Valley building at 1511 Kuntz Road in Dayton, Ohio. Learn more about DC2C by visiting www.dc2c.org. Join Crayons to Classrooms on Twitter at twitter.com/crayons2classrm and Facebook at facebook.com/crayons-to-classrooms.

About the Kids In Need Foundation

The Kids In Need Foundation is a national 501(c)(3) charitable organization with offices in Dayton, Ohio, and Minneapolis, Minnesota. Founded in 1995, the Foundation’s mission is to ensure that every child is prepared to learn and succeed by providing free school supplies nationally to students most in need. The Kids In Need National Network of Resource Centers includes 29 facilities where teachers from low-income schools go to obtain free school supplies for their students. In addition, two Kids In Need Teacher Grant programs provide K-12 educators with funding to provide innovative learning experiences for students. The Kids In Need Foundation has distributed more than \$450 million in school supplies since its founding, directly benefiting 2.4 million students and 100,000 teachers annually, and has awarded more than \$1.4 million in grants to teachers. Kids In Need has received Charity Navigator’s highest four-star rating for four consecutive years, indicating that it operates in a fiscally responsible way and outperforms most other charities in America. For more information, visit www.kinf.org. Join Kids In Need Foundation on Twitter at twitter.com/kidsinneed and Facebook at facebook.com/kidsinneed.

As the nation's largest drugstore chain with fiscal 2012 sales of \$72 billion, Walgreens (www.walgreens.com) vision is to become America’s first choice for health and daily living. Each day, Walgreens provides more than 6 million customers the most convenient, multichannel access to consumer goods and services and trusted, cost-effective pharmacy, health and wellness services and advice in communities across America. Walgreens scope of pharmacy services includes retail, specialty, infusion, medical facility and mail service, along with respiratory services. These services help improve health outcomes and lower costs for payers including employers, managed care organizations, health systems, pharmacy benefit managers and the public sector. The company operates 8,098 drugstores in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Take Care Health Systems is a Walgreens subsidiary that is the largest and most comprehensive manager of worksite health and wellness centers and in-store convenient care clinics, with more than 700 locations throughout the country.

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