

United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania 2010 Stuff the Bus

Help Homeless Kids Get Ready for School and Ahead in Life

Real Challenges – Growing Number of Homeless Kids

The number of children that are homeless or living in shelters continues to rise. About 10,000 youth go to sleep every night at a shelter in Philadelphia and its surrounding counties. As housing costs continue to outpace wages, more families are at risk of becoming homeless. The hardest hit are often the children.

- 42 percent of children in homeless families are under age six.
- Although 29 percent of adults in homeless families are working, many families today do not earn enough to meet their basic needs.*
- The impact of stress is profound – 74 percent of homeless children worry about not having a place to live and 87 percent worry that something bad will happen to their family.*



A United Approach – Stuff the Bus Helps Kids Be Prepared for School

United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania is committed to helping children enter school ready to learn. What better way to prepare children living in shelters for their first day of school than to provide them backpacks filled with supplies!

- **Stuff the Bus** also helps reduce the financial burden for homeless families, supporting United Way's commitment to strengthening the region's safety net and helping people in crisis.

Real Change – United Way To Stuff and Deliver 5,000 Backpacks

Through donations and the help of volunteers in our community, **Stuff the Bus** raises money and collects items such as three-ring binders, loose leaf-paper, spiral notebooks, pencils, pens, and erasers. Prior to the first day of school, we stuff the backpacks and deliver them to more than 56 homeless shelters in the area served by United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania.

- An average backpack with supplies costs approximately \$25. We prepare two different backpacks – for grades K-8 and grades 9-12 – which appropriately vary in style, size and content.
- In our fourth year, **Stuff the Bus** continues to grow. In 2009, we delivered 3,500 stuffed backpacks, which was up 130 percent from the 1,300 backpacks in 2008.

With your help, we are confident we will reach our goal of 5,000 backpacks for 2010. We invite you to be part of the change and LIVE UNITED.

For more information about how you can get involved visit www.LIVEUNITEDsepa.org/StufftheBus.

**From National Center on Family Homelessness Report, April 2008*

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