

United Way of
Southeast Missouri



**TIME-SENSITIVE
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Stuff the Bus with United Way

Every year, it is estimated that around 1,000 families in our area cannot afford the school supplies needed for their children to confidently begin another academic year. Even more families may be impacted this year as the employment effects of the COVID pandemic linger and costs increase. That is why United Way of Southeast Missouri is asking the community to help Stuff the Bus on August 5th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

In partnership with Walmart, FOX23, River Radio, EBO MD, and MediCenter Pharmacy, the event will be held at participating Walmart stores in Cape Girardeau, Fredericktown, Jackson, Kennett, Malden, Perryville, Poplar Bluff, and Sikeston during Missouri's tax-free weekend. Media representatives and participating schools will be on site encouraging Walmart shoppers to purchase additional school supplies and place them in the designated donation boxes or shopping carts. Some stores will have buses parked in front to collect supplies. Athletic groups, student clubs, faculty, and staff from participating schools will collect the school supplies donated by community members and periodically transport the supplies to waiting buses. At the end of the event, all donated school supplies will be delivered to students in need at each participating school. People can also give without going to the store by donating online at: www.bit.ly/stuff-the-bus-semo or by scanning the QR Code below.

Elizabeth Shelton, Executive Director of United Way explains, "United Way of Southeast Missouri is proud to bring this event to the community year after year, especially as costs for nearly everything continue to rise. As we do with everything, we are simply asking those who can to help those going through a hard time. In this case, it's the kiddos. We want to do all we can to help students feel comfortable their first day of school, rather than feeling singled out."

A list of participating schools, requested items, and more information can be found here:
<https://unitedwayofsemo.org/event/stuff-the-bus/>.

