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## News & Media

## Stuff the Bus hauls in busloads of school supplies

**Port St. Lucie** – Volunteers collected nearly 6,000 school supplies and more than \$2,000 Saturday, during the 13th annual Stuff The Bus event, located at all St. Lucie County Wal-Mart stores.

The most items were collected by Team Devereux Community Based Care, which hosted the collection at the Port St. Lucie store on U.S.1.

"We're really proud of our contribution," said Christina Kaiser, community relations director for Devereux Community Based Care, the organization that oversees the child-welfare system in Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee and St. Lucie counties. "We've been a part of the project from the beginning, and it's something we look forward to each year.





It's an important project for Devereux Community Based Care, which receives supplies for more than 300 children, she said. This year, volunteers at the site collected 2,234 individuals schools supplies - 40 percent of the entire Stuff the Bus

"It's about sweat equity for us," Kaiser said. "If someone is going to invest in the children we serve - if they're going to help us - then we are going to do our share."

Stuff the Bus is part of a larger school supplies drive called Tools for Schools St. Lucie that is led by the United Way of St. Lucie County and a committee of organizations and business partners.

Devereux Community Based Care, along with Wal-Mart, the Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County, and several other local businesses and individuals serve on the committee.

Sorting is the next step in the process and will take place over three days at Westgate High School. Committee members expect to serve nearly 10,000 children this year - a 66 percent increase from last year. The increase is due to a larger-than-expected donation from Publix.

For more information about the project, or to volunteer for an upcoming sorting day, visit Unitedwayslc.org. For information about becoming a foster parent, please <u>click here</u>.





1 of 2



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