

Devereux

COMMUNITY BASED CARE OF OKEECHOBEE & THE TREASURE COAST

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News & Media

Tools for Schools gets A+ on its report card

Port St. Lucie – Tools for Schools St. Lucie, the United Way-led drive that puts school supplies in the hands of children who need them, experienced a record increase in donations this summer.

More than 10,300 students - or 38 percent of children on free or reduced lunch - received supplies through the program this year. That's a 55 percent increase from 2016.

The bulk of the increase came from Publix, which donates to the program through its own in-store collection.

"Publix gave us 68 pallets of school supplies," said Jessica Parrish, director of collaborative impact for the United Way of St. Lucie County. "That nearly doubled our collections."

The rest of the supplies were collected from local sponsors and from Wal-Mart store customers during a special event called Stuff the Bus.

Altogether, \$775,400 worth of supplies were collected.

"We're very grateful for this program, because it helps ensure that children in the dependency system go to school with the tools they need to succeed," said Christina Kaiser, community relations director for Devereux Community Based Care and Tools for Schools Committee member.

Devereux Community Based Care is responsible for the safety, permanency and well-being of children who have been abused, abandoned or neglected in Okeechobee and the Treasure Coast.

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August 31, 2017

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