

## REPORT ON 2016 FREDERICK FEEDER SCHOOL SUPPLY PROJECT

For the seventh year, the Religious Coalition along with CASS and other partners in the community including Evangelical Reformed UCC, Frederick Presbyterian, The Church Of Jesus Christ Of Latter-day Saints, the Rotary Club of Carroll Creek, The Temple School, and churches and community members provided leadership for the distribution of school supplies to Frederick City students.

This year we were blessed again by thousands of donated items through the United Way’s Stuff the Bus campaign. If we can continue to count on those gifts, we will be able to use financial donations to purchase more of the backpacks we need as well as some items that are usually not donated but necessary for students. Please see Appendix A for the list of items and quantities we will need in 2017 to meet the growing needs of students. We will continue to require financial donations in order to purchase items ahead of time in preparation for the distribution day.

We did make one store run in mid-afternoon. We could have done another run as we ran out of a number of items by 6:00 pm. I’ll make sure we do a better job of estimating needs earlier in the afternoon so we can replenish supplies for those coming later in the day.

We served 1398 students this year. 1373 came to the Church Of Jesus Christ Of Latter Day Saints to receive their supplies. 25 backpacks were given to the Asian American Health Center for Jefferson School students.

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
Pre-K - 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	803	804	498	528	518
6-8 <sup>th</sup> Grades	300	235	207	231	160
9 – 12 <sup>th</sup> Grades	270	186	201	227	148
<b>Total</b>	<b>1373</b>	<b>1225</b>	<b>910</b>	<b>986</b>	<b>826</b>

Our new location at The Church Of Jesus Christ Of Latter-day Saints was phenomenal. It gave us an opportunity to welcome people into the building rather than spend hours standing out in the hot weather. With the increase in space we were able to offer a separate reading room where the children could choose and take home a book or two. We had a room for drawing and coloring. A large gym space was utilized for showing movies throughout the day.

In addition, we had community resource people available from WIC, the Frederick County Health Department, Frederick County Department of Social Services, Advanced Behavioral Health, The Religious Coalition and other agencies to speak with families and students. A workshop on Eating Better for Less was held as well as a workshop on responding to situations where an overdose was involved.

By welcoming people into the building, we had less problems all around. Less problems with children running around the parking lot, less trash outside, and less drama.

The members of The Church Of Jesus Christ Of Latter-day Saints provided

gracious hospitality throughout the day and even a clean-up crew at the conclusion. What a gift!

Thanks to a connection with Sharon Riser of The Temple School, we also had 500 servings of Rita's Italian ice served in the early afternoon.

We received some yogurts and bagels for volunteers for the morning shift. ERUCC provided pizza and snacks for lunch and throughout the day and ham sandwiches in the evening. Two Rotarians provided some funds towards this expense.

We asked for more volunteers this year and we got them. Over 200! This is the double the amount we had last year. With the new space, we will need more volunteers and we now know how best to divide up the volunteers who come to serve. Our greatest need continues to be volunteers who are willing to be outside and help manage the parking lot, the crowd, and assist school personnel as they register families.

Volunteers came from Evangelical Reformed UCC (31), Frederick Presbyterian (7), The Church Of Jesus Christ Of Latter-day Saints (90 plus), Congregation Kol Ami of Frederick, Calvary United Methodist (4), SHIP, the Temple School (23), the Rotary Club of Carroll Creek (13), and many from other faith groups and the community.

This year, thanks to generous financial donations, we were able to supply additional items that are on school lists but which we do not promise to have: graph paper, dividers, multiple colored highlighters, and thumb drives.

I can't say enough about the support of the FCPS personnel. Each year we are serving more children and youth and each year they make it possible for us, as volunteers, to have a great experience. This year the warehouse personnel delivered the Stuff the Bus material along with the backpacks purchased by the United Way. The truck returned the next day to take the remaining items back to the warehouse.

I continue to enjoy coordinating this project and am I pleased to report that there are now even more people who could easily coordinate the drive if anything should ever happen to me.

With the number of people were served on Monday, August 8th and the number of volunteers we had coming and going, I can't say enough about how wonderful the spirit was. Volunteers and CASS and FCPS staff provided a respectful, safe, and fun environment. All you had to do was look at the kids' faces to see their joy in choosing their supplies. Volunteers couldn't say enough about the comments from students and parents expressing their appreciation for this gift.

This project is an incredible testimony to the power of schools, the faith community, and businesses to do great things – together.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Kershner Daniel