



NEWS FROM:
Office of the Public Defender
Matt Shirk, Fourth Judicial Circuit
www.MattShirkPublicDefender.com

Contact: Matt Bisbee, Public Information Officer (904) 718-3616 or MPB@PD4.COJ.net

Public Defender Employees Provide School Supplies to Children at Sulzbacher Center with Annual ‘Stuff the Bus’ Donation Drive

Jacksonville, FL (August 23, 2011): A tradition at the Office of Public Defender Matt Shirk is to collect school supplies to give to the less fortunate school children who live at The Sulzbacher Center homeless shelter in Downtown Jacksonville. In keeping with the tradition, the PD Office brought donations to coincide with the first day of school in Duval County on Monday (8/22). Chief Assistant Public Defender Refik Eler (also a Board member for The Sulzbacher Center) and APD Melina Buncome brought a large box full of notebooks, folders, pens/pencils, crayons and more to a room full of excited children.

The ‘Stuff the Bus’ donation drive is one of several charitable functions The Public Defender Office organizes to benefit The Sulzbacher Center. One evening every three months quarter staff members donate a dinner that they prepare and serve for local homeless beneficiaries. Also, Pro-Bono legal assistance is provided to help people who cannot afford to hire an attorney.

The Sulzbacher Center provides the opportunity for homeless men, women and children to achieve a better life. The comprehensive services include street outreach, daily meals, safe shelter, case management support, job placement assistance, medical, dental, and mental health care and scattered-site housing. Every day, the Sulzbacher Center is home to more than three hundred homeless members of our community—many of whom are children. For more information, visit www.sulzbachercenter.org.



(L) CAPD Refik Eler, (R) APD Melina Buncome



PD staff pose with children and donations at Sulzbacher
