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## **Annual School Supply Donation Drive Assists Homeless Jacksonville Children**

Jacksonville, FL: The school bells ring Monday in Duval County and many of the students who reside at The Sulzbacher Center will go to class with brand new notebooks, backpacks, pencils and other important items courtesy of the staff at The Law Offices of Public Defender Matt Shirk. It is an ongoing tradition of the agency to provide the young people in homeless families with the necessities to pursue their education. Mr. Shirk has made community outreach and engagement a priority of his public office.



“The Public Defender Office has a long tradition working with the Sulzbacher Center; whether it is providing quarterly dinners, offering pro-bono legal assistance, or holding an annual school supply donation drive. It’s a privilege each August to see the excitement in the children who receive the school supplies we deliver to them. I credit the many thoughtful and selfless individuals in our office who find the resource and take the time each year to help these young people. We wish them the best in the upcoming school year!” said the Honorable Matt Shirk.

Chief Assistant Public Defender Refik Eler who serves on the Board of Directors for the Sulzbacher Center joined Mr. Shirk for the delivery to the young people on Tuesday afternoon (8/17). Lori Frank who serves the PD office as a paralegal and promotes participation in the donation drive amongst the staff accompanied the small group as well. Several very excited children were on hand to receive their new school supplies.



Sulzbacher Center provides the opportunity for homeless men, women and children to achieve a better life. The center's comprehensive services include street outreach, daily meals, safe shelter, case management support, job placement assistance, medical, dental, and mental health care as well as 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](http://www.sulzbachercenter.org).

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