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Public Defender Office brings school supplies to kids at Sulzbacher

Submitted by [Charles Broward](#) on August 23, 2011 - 12:07pm[Charles Broward's Blog](#)

The start of school can bring anything from excitement to uncertainty to downright anxiety for all kids, especially those who have been dealt a challenging hand in life.

That excitement was elevated and those tensions were lessened somewhat Monday when the region's public defender office brought school supplies to one of Jacksonville's foremost homeless shelters to help its kids on their first day back to class.

The Sulzbacher Center was again the benefactor of the 'Stuff the Bus' donation drive put on annually by Fourth Circuit Public Defender Matt Shirk and members of his staff.

"It was fun," said Sara Dougherty, development director for Sulzbacher. "... The kids were all excited, talking about their first day of school."

The Public Defender Office had recently been collecting the supplies, largely from staff members themselves, Dougherty said.

The drive is one of many efforts the Public Defender Office regularly directs towards the center. Other initiatives include various fundraisers, quarterly dinners and pro bono legal nights.

Dougherty made sure to note that while the office's help is always appreciated, it should be noted that several other area businesses, organizations and individuals have also stepped up to donate supplies.

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