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HOUSING COMMISSION PLANS SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE; NEEDS LOCAL BUSINESSES TO PARTICIPATE

Retailers and Others Asked to Make Room for Collection Boxes

Although the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year is months away, the Housing Opportunities Community Partners (HOCP), a nonprofit organization affiliated with the Housing Opportunities Commission of Montgomery County, is making plans now to launch a school supply drive. HOCP is looking for local businesses willing to place collection boxes for school supply donations in their stores or offices for six weeks this summer.

The supplies collected during the drive, which will begin on July 6, 2009 and continue through August 14, 2009, will help children and teens living in subsidized housing return to school well-prepared, supplied with notebooks, backpacks, pens and other supplies.

“This year has been especially hard for low-income families in our county who are struggling with job losses and the rising cost of living in our area. These families need the donated school supplies to prepare their children to go back to school in the fall,” said Stephanie Semones, HOC Special Events Coordinator.

“We are asking businesses for their help. Sponsorship of the school supply drive entails hosting a collection box in their place of business and encouraging their clientele to participate by donating a school supply item,” Semones added.

Last year, HOCP was able to send nearly 2,000 Montgomery County students back to school well-prepared, many with new backpacks full of supplies. This year, HOCP again hopes to send at least 2,000 children back to school prepared.

For more information, contact: Stephanie Semones, Special Events Coordinator, at: **301-355-7399**, or visit the HOCP website at: <http://www.hocommunitypartners.org/default.asp>

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