



**Marion County
Board of County Commissioners**

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COUNTY DEPARTMENTS PROVIDING ‘STUFF THE BUS’ DROP-OFF SITES

Immediate Release

MARION COUNTY, Fla. (July 19, 2011) – New folders, notebooks, clothing and more are already making their way into local homes as parents flock to area stores with their kids to begin purchasing items needed for the upcoming school year. Some area children don't have homes, however, or the means to get the items that they will need for August's first ring of the school bell.

Marion County participates in "Operation Stuff the Bus" each year to help provide school supplies for the county's homeless children. Items sought include: backpacks, binders, notebooks, pens, pencils, socks, shoes, clothing and more along with personal care products, such as deodorant, shampoo and laundry detergent. Items donated must be new.

Residents who want to participate in the school supply drive can drop off their school supply donations at any of the following county department locations:

- Marion County Administration (601 SE 25th Ave., Ocala).
- Marion County Animal Services (5701 SE 66th St., Ocala).
- Marion County Extension Service (2232 NE Jacksonville Road, Ocala).
- Marion County Facilities Management (2602 SE Eighth St., Ocala).
- Marion County Fleet Management (3330 SE Maricamp Road, Ocala).
- Marion County Human Resources (521 SE 26th Court, Ocala).
- Marion County Office of the County Engineer (412 SE 25th Ave., Ocala).
- Marion County Parks and Recreation (111 SE 25th Ave., Ocala).
- Marion County Public Safety Communications (2630 SE Third St., Ocala)
- Marion County Solid Waste (5601 SE 66th St., Ocala).
- Marion County Utilities (1219 S. Pine Ave., Ocala).
- Marion County Veterans Services (2528 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala).
- All 23 Marion County Fire Rescue full-time stations (to find the station nearest you, visit: http://www.marioncountyfl.org/FireRescue/fire_station.aspx).
- All branches of the Marion County Public Library System (to view branches and locations, visit: www.marioncountyfl.org/library.htm).

Donations collected at Marion County government offices will be presented at the regularly scheduled board meeting on Aug. 2.

The Operation Stuff the Bus campaign is sponsored by Marion County Public Schools, Public Education Foundation of Marion County and various veterans' organizations. For more information on Operation Stuff the Bus or other initiatives for homeless children, contact Suzanne McGuire, Homeless Children Liason, at Marion County Public Schools at 352-671-6847. ###

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