

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Media Release

Date: 7/23/10

**Contact:** Lisa Adkins  
Program Coordinator  
Hanover County  
Department of Community Resources  
804-365-4300

**For IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### ***Ready, Set... School!* Hanover's first Countywide School Supply Partnership Underway; Special collection event at Wal-Mart in Mechanicsville on Aug. 5**

HYSC (Hanover Youth Service Council) and the Hanover Department of Community Resources are teaming up with other organizations to develop a communitywide partnership to collect school supplies for Hanover students in need. The *Ready, Set...School!* Partnership – Helping Hands, Hanover County Public Schools, Hanover Youth Service Council, Stuff the Bus with First Capital Bank, Hanover Community Resources, Covenant Woods, Heritage Green, Hanover's Community Education Team and The Giving Heart – has been established to maximize resources and help school counselors provide services to Hanover students in need.

*Ready, Set...School!* partners will work with community groups, churches and volunteers to collect donated supplies requested by Hanover County elementary, middle and high school counselors. The counselors requested supplies most needed by students and identified students from their school who could benefit from the donated items.

"The partnership is a great asset to our school families in need," said Rachel Wheeler, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Counselor, Liberty Middle School and member of the partnership planning committee. "This collaboration is involving the community and allowing more students to get the help they need to be prepared for their first day of the 2010-11 school year."

Rather than individual groups providing supplies to students/schools independently, the *Ready, Set...School!* Project allows community partners to join forces to reach more families and reduce duplication in a consistent and coordinated way.

It's the 12<sup>th</sup> annual school supply drive to be held through the Hanover Department of Community Resources and the HYSC. It will be held through August 23.

HYSC youth have placed collection boxes at all Hanover Library Branches, the Hanover County Administration Building, the Dept. of Community Resources Office in Ashland, numerous businesses and other public locations. HYSC youth will also be at the Mechanicsville Wal-Mart on **Thursday, August 5<sup>th</sup>** from 9 a.m. to 12 noon to accept supplies.

Also, HYSC and Covenant Woods will host the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Pack-A-Backpack event for elementary students in the eastern/central area designated by their counselors to "go shopping" for backpacks and school supplies that were donated from the collection drive. Parents of students attending Pack-A-Backpack will have an opportunity to participate in "1,2,3 Magic" a parenting workshop hosted by Hanover's Community Education Team, receive other back-to-school info and resources and dinner courtesy of Hanover Heritage Green.

All parents of students in need of school supplies are advised to contact their school counselor. Any community business, church groups or organizations looking to support Hanover families by collecting or donating supplies should contact one of the following representatives:

- To assist students attending Eastern or Central Hanover Schools contact Lisa Adkins, Hanover Dept. of Community Resources at 365-4300 or [ldadkins@co.hanover.va.us](mailto:ldadkins@co.hanover.va.us).
- To assist students attending Western Hanover Schools contact Mary Gravely with Hanover's Helping Hands @ [M\\_Gravely@msn.com](mailto:M_Gravely@msn.com).