

UCM Prepares Hundreds for School

This year, thanks to the support of many individuals and organizations in the community, United Community Ministries was able to provide more than 700 children with backpacks filled with school supplies in time for the start of school. "We are especially grateful to our scores of volunteer helpers and to the many groups and organizations that hosted collection drives or donated funds to support our Back to School program this year," said UCM development and communications officer Diane Hill. Those supporting the program this year included Aldersgate United Methodist Church (Vacation Bible School), Alexandria Religious Friends, Belleview Elementary Girls On The Run Team, Bethany Lutheran Church, Calvary Presbyterian Church, Five Below Store at Mount Vernon Plaza, Grounded Coffee Shop, Heritage Presbyterian Church, Hollin Meadows Swim Team, Messiah Lutheran Church, Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church, Mount Vernon United Methodist Church, The Mueller Family, Plymouth Haven Baptist Church (Vacation Bible School), St. James Episcopal Church, St. Louis Catholic Church, Thirty-One Gifts, Vornado/Charles E. Smith (Crystal City), Watergate at Landmark Condominiums, and West Potomac High School Dance Team.



Volunteer Rita Green, who personally donated 20 backpacks filled with school supplies this year, makes sure they stay neat and orderly.

West Potomac High seniors Liliana Siguenza, left, and Yoselin Esperanza are both long-time volunteers for UCM working in the food pantry. This year was the first time they helped distribute school supplies as well.



Staff photos/Steve Hunt

Josephine Oppomg is all smiles with her new backpack filled with school supplies as she gets ready to start first grade at Groveton Elementary. With her is her mom, Rita Duah, and her 3-year-old sister Savior Oppomg, who isn't old enough to start school yet, but did receive a book.



A mom helps her daughter pick out just the right backpack.



A steady line of UCM clients kept volunteers busy.