

Project Fresh Start - 2010 FACT SHEET



PROJECT FRESH START is a program of the United Way of Portage County Volunteer Center.

PURPOSE: Provide school supplies to students in Portage County who qualify for the free or reduced price lunch program.

The start of a new school year means buying school supplies. For lower-income families it can be a time when money is tight. Project Fresh Start depends on the support of our Portage County community to help provide the school supplies these students need. This year there are over 2,637 students eligible to participate in this program.

Beginning in July, individuals and groups will collect donated school supplies. On August 19-20 these supplies will be dropped off at Ben Franklin Junior High in Stevens Point to be sorted and distributed to students on August 21st and 30th. Last year, more than 800 students received school supplies through the program. The remaining school supplies were distributed to Portage County schools and affiliate programs serving approximately 300 additional students.

WHO RECEIVES DONATED ITEMS: Project Fresh Start works with Portage County organizations and schools to identify eligible K-12 students who live or go to school in Portage County and are in need of school supplies. 2010 marks the second year that supplies will be offered to **ALL** grades, from K-12. In past years, the program was limited to grades K-9. In 2009, approximately \$69,000 worth of school supplies was distributed.

HOW TO REGISTER?

- Eligible participants should complete a registration form by **August 5**.
- Registration is available in English, Spanish and Hmong.
- Almond-Bancroft Students can register on site at the Almond-Bancroft School on August 30.

PROJECT FRESH START SUPPLIES: All students in grades K-12 receive a backpack - if needed. Additionally students receive pencils, pens, markers, colored pencils, glue, a pencil bag or box, highlighter, ruler, scissors, notebooks, folders, binders, loose-leaf paper, and other items according to individual grade requirements. For a complete list of supplies being collected, go to: www.unitedwaypoco.org

HOLD A DRIVE OR BE A DROP SITE: Organizations, groups or businesses may participate by holding their own internal drive and be a Drive Partner. They can also choose to be a Drop Site Partner. These are generally high foot traffic locations where community members can drop off school supplies. For information about how to hold a drive, be a drop site or to see what groups are already participating, go to www.unitedwaypoco.org.

VOLUNTEER: We need LOTS of help to assist with drop and drive sites and to sort and distribute supplies during the week of August 16. Starting **June 15** individuals may view volunteer opportunities by going to www.volunteersrock.org

CASH DONATIONS: Cash or check donations are being accepted at United Way of Portage County Volunteer Center. Donations to support Project Fresh Start can be sent to: Project Fresh Start, 1100 Centerpoint Drive, Suite 301, Stevens Point, WI 54481.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact United Way of Portage County Volunteer Center at (715) 341-6740 or volunteer@unitedwaypoco.org