



Press Release

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Stuff the Bus Drive Begins Monday to Help Area Children

Brenham, Texas, July 27, 2006 — Mission Brenham is launching a community drive to provision low-income children with the school supplies they need this fall. From Monday, July 31st through Saturday, August 5th a BISD yellow school bus will be parked in the Walmart parking lot and manned to receive donations. Donation hours will be 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. each day.

Stuff the Bus is timed with the upcoming tax-free weekend, so generous citizens can buy more school supplies for their money. It is also timed at the heels of a recent drive sponsored by many local banks who united to collect backpacks for the children's school year. The goal is to stuff the backpacks of 210 children who can't afford school supplies.

"School can sometimes be a challenge for any child, but those with no school supplies are disadvantaged from the start," said Marcus Lawhon, director of Mission Brenham. "Children who start behind tend to stay behind, so we want to eliminate this unnecessary obstacle."

Area residents can easily donate while they do their own shopping, due to the convenient location of *Stuff the Bus* in the Walmart parking lot. Walmart provides the BISD list of school supplies to help donors find the right supplies for this year's curriculum. Volunteers manning the bus can also offer guidance on the most-needed items.

"We want to build on the momentum of our 2006 *Jesus and Me* (JAM) program, where these kids studied Reading and Science all summer," remarked Chris Gaines, a leader of the JAM program. "Many have come a long way in a short time – a huge accomplishment, since these children have historically lagged behind their peers. We should continue to nurture them at this critical time in their development, so they can grow into literate and responsible citizens. Each individual success is a success for the future health of our community."

After *Stuff the Bus* donations are gathered, all school supplies will be placed into the backpacks that were donated by area banks in their recent drive. The backpacks with supplies will be distributed to JAM children on August 16th and 17th at Mission Brenham headquarters, 1003 Hasskarl next to Higgins Branch.

Founded in 1995, Mission Brenham is made up of Washington County followers of Jesus Christ, working together to help people in need and turn around destructive social trends for the good of the community. The team of four staff members, and up to 40 volunteers at a given time, specializes in identifying the many problems in our neighborhoods and organizing progressive ministries to resolve them. The Mission has helped many individuals find purpose and take responsibility for their lives, their finances and their families – some growing into leadership roles. You can contact Mission Brenham at 979-337-9469.

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