

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**“STUFF THE BUS” A DRIVING FORCE IN COLLECTING SCHOOL SUPPLIES  
FOR AREA KIDS**

*Communities In Schools of the Northeast, REDI and Wal-Mart partnership proves successful*

AHOSKIE/ROANOKE  
RAPIDS, N.C. –Don’t miss the bus! You wouldn’t go fishing without a pole nor driving without a car, so neither should students go to school without the supplies they need to succeed.

With the “Stuff the Bus” school supplies drive winding down the end of this month and the school year now in full swing, there are still students who could use your help.

The joint initiative undertaken by CISNE, REDI (Roanoke Economic Development, Inc.) and Wal-Mart will provide children in need of supplies in Bertie, Gates, Halifax, Hertford and Northampton counties with the items necessary to get them off to a successful school year.



Left to right (front) – Curtis Wynn, Eva Wiggins, Diana Mitchell, Rosetta Smith and Shirley White (back) Marie Jones, Marshall Cherry and Kim Braxton display some of the items donated during the debut “Stuff the Bus” school supplies drive. Not pictured: Robin Artis, Clarence “Eddie” Hall III and Abby Alonzo

The drive began with a visible campaign outside the Wal-Mart in Ahoskie and Roanoke Rapids during North Carolina’s tax free weekend and solicited a multitude of paper, pens, notebooks and \$800 plus in cash donations and gift cards combined. Donations taken up at Wal-Mart in Ahoskie – 1532 E. Memorial Drive will go to supplies for students in Bertie, Gates and Hertford counties while those made at the Wal-Mart Super Center in Roanoke Rapids – 251 Premier Blvd. will go to support students in Halifax and Northampton counties.

“This has been a very positive campaign,” said CISNE Program Coordinator Rosetta Smith. “It’s always refreshing when the community gets behind its young people in support of education and literacy,” she said. “The school years are very formative years and when a student knows he or she has people cheering them on whether verbally or by supplying items to help them succeed and do well in school, the result is confident kids and enhanced learning.”

CISNE Executive Director, Diana Mitchell agreed. “This is a wonderful scene to see the tremendous amount of school supplies donated to the “Stuff the Bus” campaign,” she added. “We thank our supporters, volunteers, area residents, and community for their support, contribution, and the opportunity to help our youth excel in the classrooms this year. You have put a bright smile on someone’s face.”

The last day for the “Stuff the Bus” donations is 4:30 p.m. Thursday, August 30<sup>th</sup>. Donations can be made at The Roanoke Center, Highway 258, 409 North Main Street in Rich Square.

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#### **About Communities In Schools of the Northeast**

Communities In Schools of the Northeast (CISNE), housed in The Roanoke Center, is a state-sponsored organization that connects community resources with local schools to help young people learn, stay in school, and prepare for life. CISNE is a division of Communities In Schools, the nation’s largest stay-in school network, serving just over one million youth in 154 communities across the United States.