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March 11, 2010

Publish Date: 7/29/2009

Donate school supplies, equip students to learn

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The first day of school is new and scary enough without having to face it sans any of the necessary supplies to participate fully in the lessons. That's why a donation to Crayons to Calculators — which works to put backpacks, pencils, notebooks and other supplies in the hands of children who might otherwise have to go to school without them — is so important.

With collection sites in Longmont, Lafayette, Louisville, Boulder, Broomfield, Dacono, Erie, Firestone, Frederick, Lyons and Mead, Crayons to Calculators hopes to assemble enough backpacks and supplies to outfit 5,300 area students.

Equipping a student for school with basic supplies can cost \$40 to \$100 — more than an increasing number of families can afford. Last year, more than 6,000 St. Vrain Valley School District students qualified for free and reduced lunch. This year, it's likely that more than 7,000 students in the St. Vrain Valley School District will qualify, according to Catherine Bedell, Crayons to Calculators project coordinator.

We hope Crayons to Calculators more than meets its goals, so that all students who need supplies this fall have them on the first day of school. Backpacks filled with non-gender specific supplies are being accepted through Aug. 7 at the Longmont Times-Call and more than 40 other locations. For the complete list of needed supplies or locations in Boulder, Broomfield and Weld counties to donate, visit www.crayonstocalculators.org. Monetary donations are also being accepted through the Web site.