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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**United Way Enlisting Help to Support Education in St. Lucie County**

*Fort Pierce, FL, July 22, 2011* – “Stuff the bag” is a new slogan for the School Supplies for Students program sponsored by United Way of St. Lucie County. Donors can fill bags or boxes with new school supplies and return to the United Way office or a community drop off site for sorting and packing. Businesses, organizations, clubs and places of worship are encouraged to collect and deliver supplies. “We can’t gather too many supplies,” explained Cris Adams, Vice President of Community Impact, United Way of St. Lucie County, “16,000 students in this school district qualify for this kind of help.”

Since its inception in 1997, School Supplies for Students has provided children in need with the basic tools necessary to be successful in school. Educators overwhelmingly agree that students with the appropriate supplies at the start of school are more prepared for class, eager to work, and in general have a better attitude toward school. For older students, it can be a reason to stay in school.

Participants in School Supplies for Students are those children eligible for free lunch who are recommended by their school. The program has provided supplies for over 39,000 children in the past 15 years.

“United Way wants to boost every child’s chance for success in school and we need community partners to make that happen,” explained Adams.

There are many ways to participate in the School Supplies Program. You can:

- Collect general school supplies
- Fill supplies requests for individual children
- Adopt-A-School or Adopt-A-School Grade
- Sort and pack supplies at Southern Oaks Middle School, Sat., July 30, Wednesday, Aug. 3, and Saturday, Aug. 6. 9:00AM-3:00PM each day
- To make cash donations, send checks to United Way of St. Lucie County, 4800 S. US 1, Fort Pierce, FL 34982, or call (772) 464-5300

For more information on the United Way or how you can support School Supplies for Students, please call 772-464-5300 or visit our website [www.unitedwayslc.org](http://www.unitedwayslc.org).

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