



# NEWS

Business Volunteer Connect, a program of the Volunteer Center of Bergen County

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## Area Companies to Collect School Supplies for Needy Kids

North Jersey---Business Volunteer Connect (BVC), a program of the Volunteer Center of Bergen County is sponsoring a collection to provide school supplies for hundreds of children who are from low-income families, in foster care, or who are homeless. Community-minded companies are invited to participate in the “Tools for Schools” initiative, which runs until August 29th. Employee volunteers will collect school supplies and deliver them to non-profit organizations including Center for Food Action, Children’s Aid and Family Services, and Youth Consultation Services.

Sponsors for Tools for School are BD, , PSEG, Rockland Electric, United Water and Wells Fargo Advisor, Bank of New Jersey, State Farm, and Cole, Schotz, Meisel, Forman & Leonard, PA.

“The new school year begins the first week of September; children will be given a list of school supplies that they need to purchase for the year,” says Ellen Lutvak, BVC Manager “In these difficult economic times, families are struggling to pay for a roof over their heads or put food on the table. School supplies are low on the list of priorities, and unfortunately, the children will do without. Think of how a child will feel when all of the other children have new pencils, notebooks and backpacks, and s/he does not.”

The BVC will coordinate the drive with companies to collect the school supplies, based on lists that have been developed in coordination with the social service agencies. Any company wishing to participate can contact Ellen Lutvak at the Volunteer Center of Bergen County, at (201) 489-9454 Ext. 133 to receive an organizational packet with complete instructions on how to organize and conduct the campaign.

Business Volunteer Connect provides consultation to companies on everything connected to employee volunteering and community engagement. Services include customized volunteer projects, guidance and expertise on employee volunteer program management, assistance with skills-based volunteering and participation in several annual volunteer initiatives.

Studies show that consumers prefer to do business with companies that give back to the community, and savvy employers know that the company benefits from improved morale and skill development when their employees are involved in volunteer service. Employee volunteering is good for business.

For more information on membership in the BVC, call Ellen Lutvak at 201-489-9454 Ext.133; e-mail [elutvak@bergenvolunteers.org](mailto:elutvak@bergenvolunteers.org), or visit [www.businessvolunteerconnect.org](http://www.businessvolunteerconnect.org)

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