

# Supply Drive, Parade Part of Back to School In Sylacauga

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Sylacauga's Promise School Supply Drive is under way with the goal of helping every child start the school year prepared with the supplies they need.

"This year we are giving the students and families more than school supplies, we are providing education with an Anti-Bullying Parade to begin the event," Sylacauga Alliance for Family Enhancement executive director Margaret Morton said. "But first, we need the school supplies."

Individuals wishing to donate may bring requested supplies or monetary donations to SAFE. Donations are tax-deductible.

Requested items include backpacks (mesh, clear and regular), spiral notebooks or composition notebooks, three-ring binders, markers (washable and Expo), scissors (safety/blunt tip), ear buds/headphones, pencil pouches with zippers or boxes, divider tabs and sheet protectors, crayons (24 count), two pocket folders (with brads), plastic pocket folders (no brads), loose leaf paper (wide and college ruled), #2 pencils (regular or mechanical), black or blue pens, color pencils, highlighters, rulers, cap erasers and copy paper.

"Last year we helped 778 students in Talladega County," said Kathy Landers, Sylacauga's Promise Committee co-chair.

"We are hoping to help at least that many or more students this year. Education, just like raising children, takes a village." Landers

said volunteers are needed to collect school supplies at the Walmart in Sylacauga from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. July 24, 25, 26 and 31, and from 8 a.m.-noon Aug. 1. To volunteer or for more information, call Marsha Tyler at SAFE at 256-245-4343.

Distribution day is Saturday, Aug. 2. The event will begin with the Anti-Bullying Parade at 9 a.m. in the parking lot of Legion Stadium and continue through downtown Sylacauga to Noble Park, where there will be a short program followed by the school supply distribution.

Leading the parade will be Sylacauga Mayor Doug Murphree, Maxine Moon and the Rev. Johnny McKinney with Rushing Springs District Association, Linda Burton, Kathy Landers, Sylacauga Councilman Shannon Darby, Dr. Todd Freeman of Sylacauga City Schools and Dr. Suzanne Lacey of Talladega County Schools.

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