

**Carnitra D. White**  
 Director

Main Office  
 80 West Street  
 Annapolis, Md. 21401-2478  
 Telephone: (410) 269-4500  
 D.C. Line: (301) 261-1756  
 TDD: (410) 269-4512  
 Fax (410) 974-8566



County Executive,  
 Steve Schuh

Mission

*The Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services will assist County residents to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency; provide services to strengthen individuals and families; and join our community partners in the protection of vulnerable children and adults*

Other Locations

Glen Burnie Office  
 Multi-Purpose Building  
 7500 Ritchie Highway  
 Glen Burnie, Md. 21061  
 (410) 269-4500

Heritage Center  
 2666 Riva Road  
 Suite 390  
 Annapolis, Md. 21401  
 (410) 897-3950

Child Advocacy Center  
 Winterode Building  
 41 Community Place  
 Crownsville, Md. 21032  
 (410) 421-8570

**Media Contact:**

Brian Schleter, PIO  
 410-269-4786

Brian.Schleter@maryland.gov

*For Immediate Release*

## **Anne Arundel County Back To School Program Seeks Additional Donors to Provide Backpacks, School Supplies for Children in Need**

*More than 500 children in financial need await matches with donors*

ANNAPOLIS, MD (July 22, 2015)— The Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services' Back to School Program, in partnership with Anne Arundel County Public Schools, is seeking additional donors (individuals, groups, organizations and businesses) to be matched with children in need of school supplies.

Matched donors will receive the child(ren)'s name, grade, school and a list of needed school supplies. The average cost for one child is \$50-\$75, depending upon grade level. Donors can register for the program online at <http://www.aacounty.org/DSS/BSP.cfm>. We also accept monetary donations, which we use to purchase additional school supplies and backpacks for middle school students.

The Back to School program is a partnership between the Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services and the Anne Arundel County Public School System. This year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the program. More than 68,000 children from low-income families have received assistance since the program began.

"The Back to School Program makes it possible for children, regardless of family income, to arrive at school on the first day feeling confident and ready to learn," DSS Director Carnitra White said. "We appreciate the community's long-standing support, and we invite those interested in donating to help push us over the finish line by applying online or contacting us."

Thanks to the generosity of the Anne Arundel County residents, businesses and faith-based communities, so far the program has matched donors with more than 3,800 public elementary school children living in families with limited means. Each student will receive new backpacks stuffed with school supplies this fall.

"To be successful in school, every child must be equipped with the proper tools, and those tools begin with simple school supplies," Superintendent George Arlotto said. "With more than 14,000 elementary students eligible for free and reduced-price meals, the ability of families to provide children with the back-to-school basics is often difficult. Our generous community has risen to the challenge of investing in our children year after year, and I have no doubt that this year will be no different."

For more information about the Back to School program, download a brochure at <http://www.aacounty.org/DSS/BSP.cfm>, call 410-269-4462, or email Volunteer Coordinator Tanya Steele Clements at [tanya.steele@maryland.gov](mailto:tanya.steele@maryland.gov).

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