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## Area nonprofit spins out on its own

Dayton Business Journal

**The Kids in Need Foundation** is separating itself from its foundation organization, the nonprofit said Tuesday.

Dayton-based Kids in Need, a national group that provides school supplies to low-income children and under-funded teachers, said it will no longer operate under the School, Home & Office Products Association, which is currently in a reorganization process.

The foundation, established in 1995, provides supplies to 1.5 million children and 100,000 teachers a year at centers across the country. Teachers visit the foundation's centers to pick up free supplies for their students from low-income families.

Kids in Need has relied solely on product and financial donations of corporations. By becoming an independent organization, the group can reach out to more funding sources, said Penny Hawk, managing director. Hawk said the foundation has been contemplating the move for a few years.

"When you are tied very closely to one industry, other people think that we don't need them," she said. "It just gives us a little bit more latitude and more freedom."

The foundation, formerly in the SHOPA offices at Elbee Drive, has moved its headquarters across the street to 3077 Kettering Blvd., Hawk said.

The foundation has eight employees and distributed \$32 million worth of school supplies last year.

SHOPA officials did not immediately return calls for comment. The group announced in October that it is examining its future.

*E-mail [tkershaw-staley@bizjournals.com](mailto:tkershaw-staley@bizjournals.com). Call (937) 528-4425.*