



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **SHOPA Kids In Need Foundation Leads School Supplies Giveaway In Dayton**

**DAYTON, OH -- MARCH 29, 2005 --** Planning is underway to provide children attending elementary and middle schools in Dayton with free school supplies before they begin the 2005-2006 school year. The SHOPA Kids In Need Foundation, with the help of local corporate sponsors and partners, is planning "School Box," a giveaway program for kids who need school supplies. An informational meeting is being held on Wednesday, April 6, 2005, to advise business leaders about the event.

The Kids in Need Foundation, founded by the School, Home, & Office Products Association (SHOPA) in 1995, distributes approximately \$30 million worth of free school supplies to 1.1 million children each year through its National Network of Kids In Need Resource Centers.

"As a national organization, we have 21 Resource Centers throughout the U.S.," says Scott Walters, executive director of the Kids In Need Foundation. "We also conduct school supply giveaways in other cities in which we do not have Centers, so we want to bring that program to our hometown of Dayton."

The Kids In Need Foundation has previously donated paper and lesson plan resource guides to the Montgomery County Recycling Resource for use by teachers. The Foundation has also awarded several

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thousand dollars in grants to local teachers to buy supplies for classroom projects.

The meeting on April 6 is being held to outline “School Box” and sign up sponsors and partners for the program. The Kids In Need Foundation is looking for business leaders who want to make a difference for kids in Dayton whose families do not have the resources to properly equip them for school.

“Children cannot do their schoolwork and homework if they don’t have the proper supplies. Academic success often eludes these kids,” says Walters. “We hear from teachers and principals whose students receive supplies from Kids In Need that having school supplies results in fewer disciplinary problems, less frequent absences, and higher test scores.”

“School Box” reflects the philosophy of the Kids In Need Resource Centers, at which teachers shop for supplies needed by their students. To shop at the Resource Centers, teachers must be from a school in which at least 70% of the student body is eligible for the federal free and reduced lunch program. Since the Dayton Public School District is completely Title I, potentially all students are eligible to receive supplies. Supplies being distributed through “School Box” will be delivered to elementary and middle school students at their schools.

The April 6 meeting will be from noon to 1:30 p.m., and lunch will be served to attendees. To reserve a place at the information luncheon on April 6, contact Jeff Sellers at 297-2250, ext. 3016.

The SHOPA Kids In Need Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization. Through its National Network of Kids In Need Resource Centers approximately 65,000 teachers shop each year for supplies

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needed by their students. No teacher, school, or student is ever charged for the supplies. In addition to the Kids In Need Resource Centers, the Foundation also conducts an annual Teacher Grants program, funding innovative classroom projects. Kids In Need Teacher Grants is sponsored in Dayton by FirstDay Financial Federal Credit Union.

SHOPA, founded in 1991, is a nonprofit trade association representing nearly 1,500 manufacturers, manufacturer representatives, retailers, wholesalers, distributors, commercial/contract stationers, and service companies involved in the production, distribution, and sale of school supplies and office products. The Association also produces SBTS (SHOPA Buyer-to-Seller) Marketplace events, which facilitate pre-scheduled and one-on-one meetings. SHOPA, in cooperation with Messe Frankfurt and PROPAPER, is producing Paperworld USA in November, the international trade event for the school, home, and office products industry. For more information, visit the Web site at [www.shopa.org](http://www.shopa.org).

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