



**GREATER EXCELLENCE IN
EDUCATION FOUNDATION**
Building Partnerships. Achieving Dreams

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July 12, 2012

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Dear Business Leader:

We need your help! There are students in our community who cannot afford basic school supplies. Every day teachers willingly dip into their own pockets to buy school supplies for their students in need. We will be supporting these teachers and children in need by collecting new school supplies for our Tools for Schools resource center, a free school supply store that provides essential classroom items for students in Harford County Public Schools.

In Harford County, 10,000 students in our public schools are economically disadvantaged and receive free and reduced meals (FaRMs). FaRMs is a federal indicator of poverty. Economically disadvantaged children don't necessarily have the needed school supplies essential for quality learning and the rigorous instruction necessary for the demands of our current economy and workforce. It is estimated that teachers spend an average of \$500 - \$1,000 of their own money to buy school supplies for their students in need.

To help all children find educational success, we will be collecting new school supplies to stock the Tools for Schools resource center. We would like to have the resource center stocked and ready by August 12 so teachers can shop free for the schools supplies their students. Our goal is to have school supplies available to students on their first day of school in August. In order to do this, GEEF will be accepting donations until the end of August, but will be happy to accept school supplies year round.

Suggested school supplies include: pencils, pens, colored pencils, washable markers, crayons, blunt edge scissors, glue sticks, bottle glue, notebook paper, erasers, two pocket folders with brads, 1 1/2" binders, binder separators, binder zippered pencil pouches, plastic pencil cases, index cards, dry erase markers, dry erasers, protractors, highlighters, composition books and backpacks.

Please complete the attached Tools for Schools commitment form and return by email at geefinc@gmail.com or mail to the below address.

We look forward to your participation and ensuring that all students have the resources to be successful in school, college, work and life!

With warm regards,

Debra Gavin Merlock
President

P.O. Box 824 ~ Edgewood, MD ~ 21040
www.geefinc.com