Local Schools

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HopeFest Hosts FREE Back to School Supplies Event

AUGUST 13TH 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Submitted by Dee Loflin SMT Manager/Writer

Sikeston, Missouri - "Back to school" can be an expensive time for family's, especially for those with multiple children. To help relieve some of the financial pressures that area family's face this time of year, a group of area leaders have developed HopeFest. HopeFest will take place on August 17 at the YMCA in Sikeston, Missouri from 5pm-9pm.

At HopeFest, family's can come and receive free backpacks and free school supplies. It will be setup like a shopping area to allow students to pick out the supplies they need. Free haircuts, vision & dental screenings, food, and music will also be provided. In addition, any teacher can get a free back massage from one of the professionals on hand.

"The group of people who organized HopeFest are very passionate educators and parents. There is great need within this region and we wanted to do our part. We want to serve the families and honor our educators," says Brad Aycock, one of the organizers. "There are no requirements, no forms, no registrations. If your kids (k-12) need these items and services, come out and join us.

Everything is free. For teachers and students from Sikeston, TCA, St. Francis, Risco, Charleston, Oran, *Richland*, *Dexter*, *Bloomfield*, East Prairie, Malden,

Gideon, **<u>Bernie</u>**, Hayti, Kennett, Portageville, Scott Central, Kelly, Scott City, Cape, or anywhere else - this for you and we want to help you," says Aycock.

The backpacks and supplies will be distributed to the first 1000 to arrive. The first 600 students will receive a free limited edition HopeFest tshirt. For more information, text or call Brad Aycock at 573.421.1824. The YMCA is located at 511 Taylor Street in Sikeston, Missouri.

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