

The News On Shoes

A First Day Shoe Fund
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Greetings

From The Director

Welcome to the first online edition of our new quarterly newsletter, *News on Shoes*. We hope you find it interesting and fun to read about what the folks at the First Day Shoe Fund are doing in between distributions. Speaking of distributions, there are only five months until the end of summer school—it's hard to believe! It's also hard to believe that this will be our 4th distribution held in partnership with KPS and KCIS. From 2006 to 2009 we have given away a total of 3,300 pairs of shoes to students so they may start school on equal footing. Our goal this year is an even more ambitious one; 1500 pairs of shoes, a 30% increase over last year—this is because the need is greater as more children and families fall behind. We are so grateful for all the generous individuals from Kalamazoo and the community who have chosen to support us and our mission. We thank you.

Steps and Strides



On January 16, 2010 the Miss Mattawan scholarship program *Big Give 2* took place at Mattawan high school. Contestants were matched with a non-profit organization for which they were required to do service and given \$100.00 with which to use as seed money. We were doubly lucky in the fact that Tori Jueneman collected and donated \$365.00 to FDSF for this year's shoe distribution and also won the contest! Thanks to this fine young woman 36 additional children will start school on equal footing. Way to go Tori!
- Miss Mattawan, Tori Jueneman, presents a check to Sabrina Prichett-Evans, President of the FDSF Board.

Thanks to Metro Toyota and Ready To Read the First Day Shoe Fund was able to participate in our first, and hopefully not our last, Kalamazoo Public Library's Ready To Read *Great Grownup Spelling Bee*. Doing a version of Aretha Franklin's R-E-S-P-E-C-T, the group got lots of laughs and attention. Believe us, Aretha doesn't have anything to worry about! As a result, the First Day Shoe Fund and Ready to Read Program benefited from the exposure.



"I want to thank you for my new shoes because they make me run faster and jump higher."

- Darrtrell, Age 8

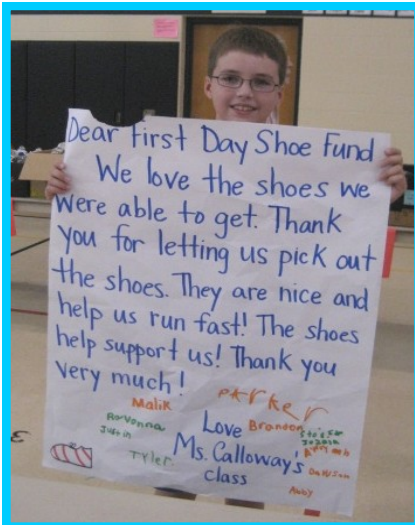
Letters of Gratitude

December 2009

Dear First Day Shoe Fund,
Thank you so much for thinking of Northeastern families. The shoes have been a big hit with the children and much appreciated by parents. Some of the shoe recipients see me in the hall and say, "Look at my new shoes!" The children are very proud. We truly appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,

Judy Morin
Achievement & Behavior Support Specialist
Northeastern Elementary



Coming Up . . .

The next shoe distribution will be July 26-29. We will need fitters, clerical and inventory help, and general all around gofers. If you wish to help contact Ann Gunia at: agunia@firstdayshoefund.org

We are currently in search of an accountant and someone to help with fund development. If interested contact Valerie at 269-375-7767.

Our next newsletter will feature photos of our distribution. See you in fall, but until then check out our new Facebook page!

 **THE FIRST DAY SHOE FUND**
All children should start school on equal footing!

Design and layout by Meg Porritt