Kyle Productions used their annual World Baton Twirling day event to put on a “Happy Feet” sock drive, resulting in 153 pairs of socks donated to First Day Shoe Fund!

Stryker Corporation continued their strong support of First Day Shoe Fund with dozens of employees volunteering during Summer Distribution and a financial gift of $3,500 toward our 2017 program.

Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 98 donated $500 to support the purchase of shoes for local children. Thank you to all members of the lodge for your support!

VML Employees in the downtown Kalamazoo office saved money from the sale of pop cans all year long, adding up to a $650 donation to First Day Shoe Fund. To top it off they joined us to fit shoes on summer school students.

Edwards Garment held a shoe drive for employees in their 9th Street office – the shoes they gathered will be given to children in our community this fall. Email firstdayshoefund@gmail.com to learn how to start a shoe drive in your office or community organization.

Arbor Financial Credit Union sponsored a Constant Contact email account for First Day Shoe Fund, helping us to better communicate with supporters like you. Visit firstdayshoefund.org/contact to sign up to receive emails about events, volunteer opportunities and other First Day Shoe Fund news.

Harry’s Foundation once again chose First Day Shoe Fund as a beneficiary of their annual Harry Fest fundraiser with a $1,500 gift. We thank Harry’s Foundation for continuing one of First Day Shoe Fund’s longest-running partnerships!

Inside this newsletter you will find a recap of our summer shoe distribution program and news on some exciting new partnerships for First Day Shoe Fund. While Summer Distribution is a blast, often people don’t know that the majority of our shoes are actually given out in the Fall Distribution period happening now.

This is because the school systems and Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo are such helpful partners in identifying students who are in need and connecting us to them. Eligible families who did not already receive shoes during the summer will receive order forms the first day of school and turn them back into their child’s site coordinator with a requested shoe size. Our volunteers package each order and deliver them a few weeks later. CIS and school personnel work very hard to help make this happen!

During the 2016/2017 school year, 3,311 children received shoes from First Day Shoe Fund in Kalamazoo Public Schools, Comstock Public Schools, Paramount Charter Academy and KRESA’s WoodsEdge Learning Center. We anticipate a similar number this year which, when added to the 1,253 summer program participants, means a lot of happy feet!

Thank you for your continued support.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars: Tuesday, December 5th from 5:00 – 8:00 PM Latitude 42 will donate 20% of all sales to First Day Shoe Fund. Join us for dinner and thank Latitude 42!
SUMMER SHOE DISTRIBUTION SUMMARY

Each year we try to provide brand new shoes to as many children as possible before the first day of school arrives. This is the most fun time of year for First Day Shoe Fund volunteers as we load all of our shoes into moving trucks and take them around to KPS summer schools and to our annual KPS Community event for non-summer school students. Children are measured for the right size shoe by volunteers, and everyone leaves with new shoes and a smile.

BY THE NUMBERS

1253 pairs of shoes distributed
337 pairs of shoes in one day at the August 9th KPS Community distribution event
144 volunteers completed 177 shifts
85 children served in Vicksburg
100% of volunteers said they will do it again!

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

PARENTS

“It helps a lot. We can put more into school supplies that they need.”

“It’s an amazing program that helps our back to school funding and shows my boys the generosity of others.”

VOLUNTEERS

“The impact on the children was obvious; they exhibited excitement, pride, happiness, and a sense of well-being.”

“Volunteering for First Day Shoe Fund reminded me how thankful I am to live in the greater Kalamazoo area; a community full of generous and caring people that help children in need.”
Shoe Distribution Event Volunteers
144 volunteers pitched in to help 1,253 children in Kalamazoo County receive new shoes in time for school. Thank you all for donating your time and energy! For many volunteers our summer distribution program has become an annual tradition, while others joined us for the first time. 100% of volunteers surveyed said they would sign up for the experience again in the future. If you would like to join our volunteer ranks, visit www.firstdayshoefund.org/giving to add your name to our contact list.

We were fortunate to have volunteer representatives from many supportive community partners help us with shoe fitting this year, including: Advia Credit Union, Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo, FLOWSERVE, Laborers Local 355, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Payless Shoes, Raymond James & Associates, Stryker Instruments, Stryker Medical, United Party & Event Services, VML, and so many of the fine staff at Kalamazoo Public Schools. Thank you all for your support!

Exciting New Partnerships
Vicksburg Back to School Bonanza
On Saturday, August 5th, First Day Shoe Fund was proud to supply shoes at the annual Back to School Bonanza organized by South County Community Services and Generous Hands, INC., with financial support from the hosting organizations.

SCCS and GHI work every year to put on a fantastic event to prepare Vicksburg students for the new school year with clothing and school supplies, and they approached First Day Shoe Fund with the great idea to partner to bring shoes to Vicksburg students this time around. We were thrilled to be included in providing brand new athletic shoes and socks to 85 Vicksburg elementary school students.

“Our union has a proud history of community involvement and this donation is just one more example of this tradition,” said Arlandar Washington, business manager with LIUNA Local 355. “First Day Shoe Fund does great work and as construction workers who are on their feet all day, we know that proper footwear can make all the difference. We are part of this community and we help build it from the ground up every day.”

Thank you to the hard-working men and women of Laborers Local 355!

Laborers Local 355 Commits to 3-Year Funding Partnership
Laborers International Union of North America and its membership of construction workers are committed to building stronger communities by investing in children. As part of this effort West Michigan Laborers Local 355 committed to donate $1,500 per year for three years, beginning in 2017. This generous planned gift helps First Day Shoe Fund better position itself to serve as many children as possible in the coming years. 6 LIUNA members also volunteered during Summer Distribution this year.

Bombas Donates 5,000 Pairs of Socks
Bombas, a sock manufacturer who donates one pair of socks for each pair sold, generously donated 5,000 pairs of socks to First Day Shoe Fund to be distributed to children in Kalamazoo! This will enable every student who receives new shoes through our program this fall to receive a brand new pair of colorful, stylish socks as well.

Exciting New Partnerships
Vicksburg Back to School Bonanza
On Saturday, August 5th, First Day Shoe Fund was proud to supply shoes at the annual Back to School Bonanza organized by South County Community Services and Generous Hands, INC., with financial support from the hosting organizations.

SCCS and GHI work every year to put on a fantastic event to prepare Vicksburg students for the new school year with clothing and school supplies, and they approached First Day Shoe Fund with the great idea to partner to bring shoes to Vicksburg students this time around. We were thrilled to be included in providing brand new athletic shoes and socks to 85 Vicksburg elementary school students.

“Our union has a proud history of community involvement and this donation is just one more example of this tradition,” said Arlandar Washington, business manager with LIUNA Local 355. “First Day Shoe Fund does great work and as construction workers who are on their feet all day, we know that proper footwear can make all the difference. We are part of this community and we help build it from the ground up every day.”

Thank you to the hard-working men and women of Laborers Local 355!

Laborers Local 355 Commits to 3-Year Funding Partnership
Laborers International Union of North America and its membership of construction workers are committed to building stronger communities by investing in children. As part of this effort West Michigan Laborers Local 355 committed to donate $1,500 per year for three years, beginning in 2017. This generous planned gift helps First Day Shoe Fund better position itself to serve as many children as possible in the coming years. 6 LIUNA members also volunteered during Summer Distribution this year.

Bombas Donates 5,000 Pairs of Socks
Bombas, a sock manufacturer who donates one pair of socks for each pair sold, generously donated 5,000 pairs of socks to First Day Shoe Fund to be distributed to children in Kalamazoo! This will enable every student who receives new shoes through our program this fall to receive a brand new pair of colorful, stylish socks as well.

Exciting New Partnerships
Vicksburg Back to School Bonanza
On Saturday, August 5th, First Day Shoe Fund was proud to supply shoes at the annual Back to School Bonanza organized by South County Community Services and Generous Hands, INC., with financial support from the hosting organizations.

SCCS and GHI work every year to put on a fantastic event to prepare Vicksburg students for the new school year with clothing and school supplies, and they approached First Day Shoe Fund with the great idea to partner to bring shoes to Vicksburg students this time around. We were thrilled to be included in providing brand new athletic shoes and socks to 85 Vicksburg elementary school students.

“Our union has a proud history of community involvement and this donation is just one more example of this tradition,” said Arlandar Washington, business manager with LIUNA Local 355. “First Day Shoe Fund does great work and as construction workers who are on their feet all day, we know that proper footwear can make all the difference. We are part of this community and we help build it from the ground up every day.”

Thank you to the hard-working men and women of Laborers Local 355!

Laborers Local 355 Commits to 3-Year Funding Partnership
Laborers International Union of North America and its membership of construction workers are committed to building stronger communities by investing in children. As part of this effort West Michigan Laborers Local 355 committed to donate $1,500 per year for three years, beginning in 2017. This generous planned gift helps First Day Shoe Fund better position itself to serve as many children as possible in the coming years. 6 LIUNA members also volunteered during Summer Distribution this year.

Bombas Donates 5,000 Pairs of Socks
Bombas, a sock manufacturer who donates one pair of socks for each pair sold, generously donated 5,000 pairs of socks to First Day Shoe Fund to be distributed to children in Kalamazoo! This will enable every student who receives new shoes through our program this fall to receive a brand new pair of colorful, stylish socks as well.

Exciting New Partnerships
Vicksburg Back to School Bonanza
On Saturday, August 5th, First Day Shoe Fund was proud to supply shoes at the annual Back to School Bonanza organized by South County Community Services and Generous Hands, INC., with financial support from the hosting organizations.

SCCS and GHI work every year to put on a fantastic event to prepare Vicksburg students for the new school year with clothing and school supplies, and they approached First Day Shoe Fund with the great idea to partner to bring shoes to Vicksburg students this time around. We were thrilled to be included in providing brand new athletic shoes and socks to 85 Vicksburg elementary school students.

“Our union has a proud history of community involvement and this donation is just one more example of this tradition,” said Arlandar Washington, business manager with LIUNA Local 355. “First Day Shoe Fund does great work and as construction workers who are on their feet all day, we know that proper footwear can make all the difference. We are part of this community and we help build it from the ground up every day.”

Thank you to the hard-working men and women of Laborers Local 355!

Laborers Local 355 Commits to 3-Year Funding Partnership
Laborers International Union of North America and its membership of construction workers are committed to building stronger communities by investing in children. As part of this effort West Michigan Laborers Local 355 committed to donate $1,500 per year for three years, beginning in 2017. This generous planned gift helps First Day Shoe Fund better position itself to serve as many children as possible in the coming years. 6 LIUNA members also volunteered during Summer Distribution this year.

Bombas Donates 5,000 Pairs of Socks
Bombas, a sock manufacturer who donates one pair of socks for each pair sold, generously donated 5,000 pairs of socks to First Day Shoe Fund to be distributed to children in Kalamazoo! This will enable every student who receives new shoes through our program this fall to receive a brand new pair of colorful, stylish socks as well.
Each year we get a bigger crowd for our signature fundraising event, Brews & Shoes! Despite the stormy weather, over 250 people packed into Arcadia Ales this May to raise money to purchase shoes for the coming school year. Thank you so much to our venue Arcadia, our entertainment Duke & The Loose Cannons, event photographer Fran Dwight, the local businesses and artists who donated auction items and everyone who joined in on the fun. Keep an eye out in this space for news on next year’s event, which we hope will be the biggest and best one yet!