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Navient Foundation contributes \$7,500 to provide school supplies for Northern Virginia children

RESTON, Va., Aug. 10, 2016 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Students in Northern Virginia will come to class this fall equipped with the school supplies they need to succeed, thanks to Kids R First, a nonprofit organization that helps provide classroom materials at the beginning of the school year for Northern Virginia kids in need. Navient Foundation, the company-sponsored philanthropic fund, has contributed \$7,500 to support the organization.

A photo accompanying this announcement is available at <http://www.globenewswire.com/NewsRoom/AttachmentNg/1ee91fdd-3897-4a96-b771-1dcd1786ea0e>

Through partnerships with Office Depot and Wal-Mart, Kids R First is able to purchase \$4 worth of school supplies for every dollar, increasing the purchasing power of Navient's donation of \$7,500 to \$30,000 and providing 1,250 students with supplies.

"Navient has been so generous to Kids R First and we are so grateful for their continued support," said Patty Gehring, chairman of school supplies distribution and volunteer coordinator, Kids R First. "Because of Navient and the Navient Foundation, we are able to support more children in the area who are in need of classroom supplies in Fairfax and Loudon Counties. We extend our deepest thanks."

Each child in need will receive an average of 12-13 school supplies, such as pencils, pens, notebooks and folders that are custom-ordered based on classroom needs.

"Ensuring our children come to class prepared every day with the necessary classroom supplies is something that most of us probably take for granted, yet it's vital for academic success," said Ted Morris, senior vice president, Navient. "We are honored to lend a helping hand by investing in the future generation."

In addition, employees at Navient's Reston facility will donate nearly 200 backpacks to further support local schools through a collaboration with Kids R First and Cornerstones, a local nonprofit organization. Reston employees were also recently onsite at Rachel Carson Middle School alongside Kids R First to help sort, label and organize requested supplies to participating schools.

Since its founding in 1998, Kids R First has helped 208,400 students receive the supplies they need. During the 2015 school year, 25,000 children received materials at 90 schools in Northern Virginia.

Learn more about [Kids R First](#).

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