

## **MSU community to ‘Fill the Bus!’ during Fall Welcome**

Contact: Renee Zientek, Center for Service-Learning and Civic Engagement:  
(517) 353-4400, [zientekr@msu.edu](mailto:zientekr@msu.edu); or, Carla Hills, University Outreach and  
Engagement: (517) 353-8977, [hillsc@msu.edu](mailto:hillsc@msu.edu)

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### ***For Immediate Release***

EAST LANSING, Mich. – Fall Welcome is here, and MSU students are once again planning to “Fill the Bus” by participating in a university-wide civic engagement event designed to share their Spartan Spirit with the mid-Michigan community.

From Sunday, August 25 until Wednesday, August 28 incoming and returning students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to donate items such as school supplies, non-perishable food, and personal products. Colorful green bins are prominently displayed in dorms and various campus area locations to make it easy for drop-off. The items will be organized, packed and distributed locally on Thursday, August 29.

Now in its fifth year, Fill the Bus demonstrates a collective effort from the MSU community to share small contributions from thousands of Spartans who annually invigorate the local community during Fall Welcome and the beginning of a new academic season.

“The individual contributions requested are small and modest, but those extra notebooks, folders, packs of markers or other items can help make the beginning of the school year brighter for local children and their families. The impact is, ultimately, significant because of the sheer number of people who participate,” says Renee Zientek, director of the Center for Service-Learning and Civic Engagement.

The Center for Service-Learning and Civic Engagement is coordinating Fill the Bus on behalf of Michigan State University. Additional area sponsors include Dean Transportation, MSU Federal Credit Union, Jackson National Life, Meijer, Kroger, and Goodrich’s Shop-Rite.

Mid-Michigan partners welcoming the donations include: Cristo Rey Community Center, East Lansing School District, Ele’s Place, Greater Lansing Food Bank, Lansing City Rescue Mission, Lansing School District, MSU Family Resource Center, MSU Student Food Bank, and the Refugee Development Center.



**Center for  
Service-Learning  
and Civic  
Engagement**

Student Affairs and  
Services

University Outreach  
and Engagement

345 Student Services  
East Lansing, MI 48824: 517-  
353-6633  
[servicelearning.msu.edu](http://servicelearning.msu.edu)

**\*\*\*Note to Media: Donations will be collected, sorted, and distributed to community partners on Thursday, August 29, 2013. Please call the Center for Service Learning and Civic Engagement that morning for time and location details, 517-353-4400, or Nate Cradit, 734-531-9421.**

## **Fast Facts About Fill the Bus**

***When:***

- Sunday, August 25 through Wednesday, August 28, 2013 collections
- Thursday, August 29, 2013 distribution to community organizations

***Suggested Donations:*** Any and all school supplies, non-perishable food, personal products such as hand sanitizer and the like.

***Where:*** Donations accepted in the bright green bins placed in the dorms and various campus locations. See the website for a list of the locations.

***Mid-Michigan Partners:*** Cristo Rey Community Center, East Lansing School District, Ele's Place, Greater Lansing Food Bank, Lansing City Rescue Mission, Lansing School District, Mid-Michigan Food Bank, MSU Family Resource Center, MSU Student Food Bank, Refugee Development Center

***Sponsors:*** Dean Transportation, Michigan State University, MSU Federal Credit Union, Jackson National Life, Meijer, Kroger, Goodrich's Shop-Rite

***Website:*** <http://www.servicelearning.msu.edu/events/fill-the-bus>

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