



## **NEWS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release – July 31, 2010**

Contact: Delia A. Taylor, APR, Taylor Media Services, 225-931-0286 or [taylormedia@bellsouth.net](mailto:taylormedia@bellsouth.net); or Livingston Parish Assessor Jeff Taylor, 225-921-1554.



*Denham Springs Junior High Principal Jenny Barclay presents a check for \$1,149.08 to Livingston Parish Assessor Jeff Taylor to benefit the Assess the Need school supply drive. Barclay said students from her school donated the money during a voluntary, free-dress fund raising event at her school in May. \*\**

## **Local Students Give to Assess the Need**

Several Livingston Parish schools held fund raising events before the end of the school year to benefit Assess the Need, collectively raising more than \$3,800 for this year's school supply drive.

This year's drive marks the tenth year that Livingston Parish Assessor Jeff Taylor and local businesses are sponsoring Assess the Need, collecting donations for needy children in Livingston Parish Public Schools.

Taylor said he anticipates needing more than \$40,000 this year to purchase supplies for nearly 2,300 students in the parish. He said that need represents about 10 percent of the public school's student population.

"This generous donation from the students will go to help those children who cannot afford even the basic school supplies," Taylor said. "We want all our students to have the tools they need to be successful in the classroom. And knowing that fellow students are supporting this effort is a great feeling."

Those schools that held fund raisers for this year's campaign, included:

- Denham Springs Junior High -- \$1,149.08
- Albany Lower Elementary -- \$583.75
- Lewis Vincent Elementary -- \$538.50
- Levi Milton Elementary -- \$385.00
- Springfield Elementary -- \$348.00
- Doyle Elementary -- \$236.45
- Frost School -- 212.00
- Live Oak Middle -- \$174.00
- Option III Campus -- \$110.00
- Denham Spring Freshman High -- \$74.00

Most of the schools that collected monies for Assess the Need did so as part of voluntary free dress activities on their campuses.

"Our students were excited about helping a good cause that benefits some of their classmates and other students across the parish, and the free dress opportunity gave them a change from the day-to-day norm. So the event was definitely well-received on our campus," said DSJH Principal Jenny Barclay. Barclay's school collected more than \$1,100.

Doyle Elementary Acting Principal Donna Sibley said many of students and parents were aware of the program and how it has greatly benefitted students throughout the parish. "This was a great way to include our students in on a program that benefits them and their friends. The students really liked knowing that they were helping people in their own school," Sibley said.

Over the past nine years, the Assess the Need program has collected more than \$380,000 for local students. Taylor and volunteers also sponsored an “emergency response” drive following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita to collect supplies for students who had been displaced by the storms. That special Assess the Need drive collected nearly 6,000 book bags filled with supplies for an estimated value of \$100,000. Those supplies were distributed to several South Louisiana parishes and a school district in Texas.

For this year’s drive, Taylor said several local businesses have given monetary donations, and nearly 100 volunteers from across the parish have participated in collecting donations.