



Assistance League® of Indianapolis
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Indianapolis, IN, June 10, 2009 –Operation School Bell® receives a grant from the MCR Charitable Foundation, Inc. to fund new duffle bags for more than 2,800 children for the 2009-10 school year.

Assistance League® of Indianapolis is pleased to announce that it has received a \$15,642.00 grant from the MCR Charitable Foundation, Inc. to fund the purchase of duffle bags for each of 2,835 students to be served through the Operation School Bell® Program during the 2009-2010 school year. The MCR Charitable Foundation has provided funding to Operation School Bell for the purchase of the duffle bags for the past several years. The Board of Directors of the MCR Charitable Foundation includes: Margaret Cole Russell, President, Patricia Alvis, Frances Eickhoff, and Janice Nichols

We have been told by school social workers that in addition to using the duffle bags to transport their new items home from Operation School Bell, many of the children use the duffle bags as their chest of drawers or for transporting their belonging as they move from one location to another.

Since it's inception in 1984, more than 29,000 disadvantaged children have received clothing and school supplies through Operation School Bell. The children referred to Operation School are students from Indianapolis Public School System and the Metropolitan School Districts of Washington, Lawrence, Warren, and Pike Townships. They are selected by school personnel and meet financial qualifications at or below the poverty level.

The children are brought to Operation School Bell by school buses and under the guidance of an Assistance League member, personally choose their new items in a store-like setting. Each child receives a duffle bag – they may choose from three different colors, an important ownership factor for children of large families who may have several siblings also selected for Operation School Bell. The child fills their duffle bag with their new clothing and school supplies which include: a winter jacket; a hat, scarf and gloves set; 6 pairs of socks, 6 briefs or boxers, school supplies, hygiene supplies, 2 age-appropriate books, a belt, a sweatshirt, 2 pairs of navy or khaki pants, jumpers, or skorts and 2 uniform shirts. The retail cost for these same new items would be approximately \$200 per child.

School personnel have reported that children that are properly clothed and have the necessary school supplies have improved self esteem and success in their academic pursuits, despite enormous obstacles. With a child poverty level of 90% in Indianapolis Public Schools and 72% in the Metropolitan School Districts, now more than ever, families struggling to provide the bare essentials welcome the relief provided by Assistance League of Indianapolis.

About Assistance League of Indianapolis

Assistance League of Indianapolis, with the support of 192 all-volunteer members, provides comfort to more than 6,000 children and adults in the greater Indianapolis area each year through Operation School Bell, ALI Bears, Assault Survivor Kits® and ALI Friends. During the 2007-2008 fiscal year, 90 cents of every dollar spent by Assistance League of Indianapolis was returned to the Indianapolis community

through its philanthropic programs. To learn more about membership, programs or make a donation visit [www. www.alindy.org](http://www.alindy.org) or call 317-872-1010.

Assistance League® of Indianapolis is a chapter of National Assistance League. Through the gift of service to their communities, over 120 chapters of Assistance League across the nation returned approximately \$35 million to local communities through their local chapter philanthropic programs.

Assistance League® of Indianapolis - *putting caring and commitment into action through community-based philanthropic projects.*

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