

***Kids' Shopping Day of Lawrence County Recognized with Regional Superintendent's CLASS Award***

Regional Superintendent Monte Newlin was proud to present Kids' Shopping Day of Lawrence County with a well-deserved CLASS Award on April 4th in Lawrenceville. Kids Shopping Day of Lawrence County is a ministry that began in 2006 to help the children and families of Lawrence County with the "beginning of school" expenditures. All Lawrence County children attending Pre-K through High School are welcome to attend the annual event.

Kids' Shopping Day is held at Central Christian Church in Lawrenceville on the first Saturday in August of every year. The entire Church is transformed into a shopping mall, including dressing rooms, alteration room, and a hair salon. Each child receives two outfits, six pair of underwear, six pair of socks, and a new pair of tennis shoes. In addition to the clothes and shoes, each child also receives a backpack of their choosing filled with age appropriate school supplies; a bag full of hygiene items and a New Testament Bible presented by the Gideons. A free haircut by area hair stylists is also offered to all children.

It takes a whole year of planning, shopping, fundraising, and lots of volunteers to make the annual event a success. Preparations for the next year's event begin immediately after the end of the current event. KSD averages approximately 500 children each year. The cost of providing these essentials to the children of Lawrence County, is funded by generous donations from the community and various fundraisers (annual pancake breakfast; Father/Daughter Dance; Southern Illinois Spring Classic 5k/Half Marathon; Potato Bar/Auction, etc.) held throughout the year.

"Students can't be expected to learn to their potential without the essentials, and Kids Shopping Day is an excellent example of neighbors helping neighbors to ensure local students are ready to learn. The tireless efforts of groups such as Kids Shopping Day make our local schools second to none." said Regional Superintendent Newlin.



*Pictured above are (L-R): Heidi Sutherland, President of KSD; Regional Superintendent Monte Newlin; and Marla Fiscus, KSD Secretary*