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Area banks help stock Teacher's Warehouse

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Cumberland Bank and Trust teller Nicole Sartain presents the money and materials her bank raised to Clarksville Montgomery County Education Foundation Board members Jeff Burkhart, left, and Rudy Johnson. / Contributed photo/Elise Shelton

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8/23/2011

Written by
Karen Parr-Moody
For The Leaf-Chronicle

It is an all too common story in American news: Teachers having to purchase school supplies out of their own pockets. However, in Montgomery County several local banks have stepped in to ease the burden.

Business
Legends Bank
Elise Shelton
Austin Peay State
University

From July 25 to Aug. 15, the banks participated in the Apples for Education program, collecting cash and supplies to help these teachers.

The five branches of Legends Bank and four branches of Cumberland Bank and Trust both asked customers to "purchase" a paper apple for the cause, in addition to donating materials.

Legends Bank garnered \$400 and between 400 and 500 supply items. Cumberland Bank and Trust pulled in \$68 and close to 100 supply items. Regions Bank also got involved, but rather than soliciting the public, the bank kept its fundraising efforts among its employees.

On Thursday, the banks were given certificates of recognition by Elise Shelton, the chief communications officer for the Clarksville-Montgomery County School System.

"I thought a lot of (school materials) were funded through the Clarksville-Montgomery school system," said Nicole Sartain, the backup head teller who helped organize the Apples for Education program at Cumberland Bank and Trust. "I was absolutely shocked to find out otherwise."

Materials and funds raised through the Apples for Education program will go to the CMC Education Foundation, a nonprofit organization that provides additional funding for the public schools of the Clarksville-Montgomery County School System.

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From left, Legends Bank staff Britney Campbell, Angie Jackson, Liz Pritts, Melinda Schwallie, Lisa Roberts and Heather Erickson pose with some of the 400 to 500 individual school supplies they received as donations for the Clarksville Montgomery County Education Foundation's Teachers Warehouse. / For The Leaf-Chronicle/Karen Parr-Moody

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To learn more about how to help the Clarksville Montgomery County Education Foundation, visit www.cmcss.net/educationfoundation/index.html.

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It was the first year for the Apples for Education program. It was developed by Candy Johnson, the executive director of the CMC Education Foundation, and Chris Hall, an Austin Peay State University student and intern for the group who is studying communications.

All materials that come out of the fundraiser will fill the shelves of the CMC Teacher Warehouse, a supply "store" located in the Greenwood Complex on Greenwood Avenue. Managed by volunteers Dana Dunn Dewberry and Jone Burke, the warehouse provides free supplies to licensed CMCSS teachers. It is an umbrella project of the CMC Education Foundation, held together in cooperation with Hands On Clarksville.

"We appreciate what was gathered," Shelton said. "Each time the teachers come into the warehouse, we want to make sure the shelves are stocked. And I think next year we will have some more time and energy to make sure there are maybe more banks involved."

Britney Campbell, assistant VP of marketing for Legends Bank, said she had a large group of ladies at the bank who helped put together the school supply items and decorate the main branch's lobby to encourage donations. "It takes a team," she said.

One employee's mom donated a bright yellow Sesame Street bus that had formerly been used as a prop in a camera store. It was perfect for storing school supplies.

"It's a benefit for the teachers as much as it is for the students," Campbell said of the bounty accumulated.

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