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About 30,000 school supplies collected for local students

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Markers were just a few of the 30,000 school supplies donated as part of the annual Don't Miss the Bus school supplies drive. Items will be divided proportionally between the Family Resource Centers at Hardin County Schools and Elizabethtown Independent Schools and Fort Knox Child, Youth and School Services.

TREY CRUMBIE/The News-Enterprise

Traveling in yellow school buses and other vehicles, volunteers collected tens of thousands of school supplies about three weeks prior to the start of school from various sites around the county.

The supplies were collected as part of the eighth annual Don't Miss the Bus donation drive.

Volunteers spent the day unpacking and sorting supplies at Hardin County Schools College View Campus in Elizabethtown. Folders, glue sticks, paper, notebooks and other school supplies were stacked together on several tables. Supplies were gathered from 49 locations around Hardin County. Bluegrass Cellular, Quicksie, United Way of Central Kentucky, Kentucky's Heartland, Brighter Futures Counseling, GrossHall Systems and Hardin County Schools helped with the drive.

About 30,000 school supplies were collected, Bluegrass Cellular's Public Relations and Event Specialist Mackenzie Riordan said in a text message. About 28,000 school supplies were donated last year. Money also was donated during this year's drive, but an exact amount was not immediately available as of Friday evening.

Volunteer Ken Joseph, a member of the Omicron Nu Lambda chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, helped organize supplies Friday as part of the fraternity's commitment to community service.

"This is what we do," he said, adding he wanted to teach his relatives, who attend Fort Knox Community Schools, about community service.

Supplies collected during the drive will be divided proportionally between the Family Resource Centers at Hardin County Schools and Elizabethtown Independent Schools and Fort Knox Child, Youth and School Services.