



*(Photo by John Schneider) Tuscola County Undersheriff Robert Baxter, along with 9-year-old son Taylor, serves free hot dogs to community members Thursday at the annual Tuscola County Night Out event, which gives the community a chance to mingle with area first responders.*

## COMMUNITY GATHERS TO DONATE SCHOOL SUPPLIES AT ANNUAL TUSCOLA NIGHT OUT

By admin / August 8, 2018

For a few hours on Thursday afternoon, the military-surplus Humvee owned by the Tuscola County Sheriff's Office wasn't used for search-and-rescue efforts. Instead, it was used to collect school supplies.

From 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the parking lot of the former Farmer Jack store in Caro, folks gathered for the annual Tuscola County Night Out.

Workers at the event accepted items such as pencils, crayons, erasers, binders, scissors, backpacks and notebooks. The items were then placed in the back of the Humvee.

The collection was just one activity during the Tuscola County Night Out. The free event also featured fire department demonstrations, fire trucks and police cars, and displays of law enforcement equipment.

Tuscola County Sheriff Glen Skrent and Great Start Tuscola Director Rachael Koepf collaborated to present the event this year. Skrent said on Thursday the collected school supplies will be evenly distributed between all nine school districts in the county.

“It’s really astounding how many kids there are in need,” he said. “If you can’t get them started off right to begin with, then they’re going to end up in my facilities (jail). The more we can do to help kids at a young age, the better.”

In 2016, about 520 students in Tuscola and Huron counties were identified as “homeless” under a federal definition that includes students living in homes other than their own, along with the more classic example of students living on the street.

Some of the agencies at the event included the Caro Fire Department, Elmwood Township/Gagetown Fire Department, Mayville Fire Department, Michigan State Police, Mobile Medical Response and the Vassar Fire Department.

“We love being involved in the community and like events like this because we get to go meet people from the community,” Michigan State Police Trooper Nicole Dhooghe said. “It’s such a fun day.”

Those still looking to donate may drop off school supplies any time in the lobby of the Tuscola County Sheriff’s Office, 420 Court St. in Caro. The public also may provide those items from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Aug. 10 at a customer appreciation event at Team One Credit Union, 1130 Cleaver Road, in Caro.

“We’re really happy with the public’s response,” Skrent said. “People have been coming up to the sheriff’s office and coming here way before the event started and putting stuff in the Humvee.”

Skrent said the sheriff’s office received the Humvee in 2009 free of charge and it has only been used a few times.

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