



## Press Release

### **Fourth Annual *Stock the Lockers* Aims to Support Vulnerable Students** *2013 Campaign Aims to Raise \$50,000 For Urgently Needed School Supplies*

**Nanaimo, BC – August 15, 2013** – The [Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation](http://www.nlsf.ca) (NLSF) kicked off its biggest annual fundraising campaign, *Stock the Lockers*, today with an event at Staples North Nanaimo location. The campaign, now in its fourth year, aims to raise \$50,000 to purchase school supplies and to help provide necessities for needy students throughout the year through the Foundation's **Student Support Fund**. Over the past three years the community has helped to raised over \$140,000.

"Starting the school year off on the right foot with supplies can be the difference between success or failure for a vulnerable student," said Erin van Steen, Executive Director, NLSF. "*Stock the Lockers* is looking to make sure that students who may start school empty-handed are going to school prepared. We are looking to the generosity of the community to be able to do that again this year."

Child poverty continues to remain a major issue in our community with the Nanaimo-Ladysmith school district repeatedly ranking among the highest in British Columbia in terms of poverty-stricken students. One in four children in our community receive some form of income assistance and families are struggling to make ends meet. These students and others are coming to school unprepared at the start of the year and are not setting themselves for a year of success.

The NLSF Student Support Fund was created four years ago to get funds directly to school principals, teachers and counselors to assist vulnerable students. Money raised from *Stock the Lockers* ensures that students get the help they need at the beginning of the year through supplies and throughout the year.

NLSF is encouraging the community, local businesses and service clubs to give generously to help children in poverty. This year's generous sponsors for the campaign, Staples, Coastal Community Credit Union, Ladysmith Credit Union and our media sponsors Nanaimo Daily News, Nanaimo News Bulletin and Island Radio, are integral to the success of *Stock the Lockers*. Their support is vital to help spread the word to the community about needs of local students and how donations make a difference.

Donations can be made directly through the Foundation either online [www.nlsf.ca](http://www.nlsf.ca) or by calling the office at 250-753-4074. At the two Staples locations in Nanaimo, at the Coastal Community Credit Union locations and at the Ladysmith Credit Union. Tax receipts will be issued for donations over twenty dollars.

The Nanaimo-Ladysmith School Foundation raises funds and works in partnership with teachers, administrators and counselors in School District 68 to deliver support programs that better the lives of students in need. Supplies and programs that are not covered by the school board budget are supplemented through the Foundation.

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