



Press Release

Annual *Stock the Lockers* Fundraiser Helps Vulnerable Students 2012 Campaign Aims to Raise \$50,000 Urgently Needed School Supplies

Nanaimo, BC – August 16, 2012 – 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 third 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. Coming to school prepared with a backpack, binders and pencils empowers vulnerable students who may not have any supplies at the start of the 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. Food bank usage is consistently high and many families are struggling to make ends meet. The NLSF Student Support Fund was created three 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.

"Each and every donation matters. Having some new school supplies is critical for students who may start the year with nothing in their hands," said Erin van Steen, Executive Director, NLSF. "A donation of \$50 ensures an elementary student has the supplies they need and a \$100 donation equips a high school student with what they need to succeed along with their peers."

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, HSBC 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 at any Staples location in Nanaimo at the checkout until September 6th, at the four Coastal Community Credit Union locations in Nanaimo: Bowen, Southgate, Downtown and Hammond Bay and the HSBC branch on Aulds Road. Donations can also be made via cash or cheque to the Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation 250-753-4074 or online at www.nlsf.ca. 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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