

# packin' Backpacks

Volunteers get ready for school at CRMC

By Josie Sellers

For The Beacon

On July 2, within four hours volunteers had thousands of backpacks filled for Coshocton Regional Medical Center's annual school supplies drive.

"This is very well organized," said Susan Worthington from the WIC office, which is in the Coshocton Public Health District building on Chestnut

Street. "The hospital works well with us, so we wanted to jump in and help."

Olivia Elson, health educator at the Coshocton Public Health District, was another volunteer who assisted with the project.

"Any opportunity we can get to give back, we will be the first to sign up to do so," she said. "This has been great so far. They have a great setup."

Several Coshocton County Ju-

venile Court employees also came to help including one's daughter.

"I'm here because I came to work with my mom today," 11-year-old Lucy Shaw said.

She goes to school at Claymont and said they do not do anything like this there. "It's nice," Shaw said.

Jinni Bowman, juvenile deputy clerk, said this was her first time helping with the project. "This is a great program," she said. "It's very streamlined. Everyone knows what they are doing, and we are working as a team."

After supplies were put in the backpacks, volunteers from Coshocton Behavioral Health Choices took them to a storage room at CRMC until they are ready to be distributed to area schools.

"We love to help out," John Turley from CBHC said. "We are involved with all three school districts, and this is an extension of

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Kaylee Andrews, director of business development and

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*John Turley*

marketing at CRMC, said this was their fourth annual Fill the Backpack project. In May volunteers from Fanatics helped pack

1,200 backpacks, and the rest of the 3,500 were finished on July 2. One backpack full of 11 core school supplies will be given to each student pre-K through sixth grade in Coshocton County and Newcomerstown. New to the list of supplies included is a set of headphones.

"The schools identified that as a need," Andrews said. "With their tablets and computers, it was something they started asking for. This year we were able to put one in each backpack. Coshocton Regional Medical Center is the largest donor for the project since this is our outreach project. About 60% of the funding comes from us, and the rest is from different businesses and organizations."

Andrews said the hospital started this project because they wanted an outreach that would impact the entire community and pull together different organizations.

