

Twins Ace, Community, Britepaths Raise Funds for School Supplies

By BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Each year, Fairfax-based nonprofit Britepaths raises money to purchase school supplies for students in need in Fairfax County. And this year, the need was greater than ever, but that only made Britepaths even more determined to help these students.

Local residents and businesses stepped up and answered the call, opening their wallets to contribute. Among them was Twins Ace Hardware in Fairfax City. During July, it raised \$2,000 for Britepaths' Collect for Kids Back-to-School program via a round-up campaign, whereby customers donated their change to round up their totals when they bought items from the store.

Fairfax City's Daniels Run Elementary was one of 15 Fairfax County Public Schools that received supply kits through Britepaths' program to distribute to students in need at its school. And last Monday, Aug. 16, Twins Ace co-owner Craig Smith went there and met with Britepaths' Shannon Bryant to present the store's donation.

Overall, Britepaths raised more than \$43,000 and used the donations to buy 4,250 Campus Survival Kits for Fairfax High School, Justice High School and their feeder elementary and middle schools. Inside the kits were folders, composition books, pencils, crayons, markers, scissors, glue sticks, erasers, a pencil sharpener and earbuds.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRITEPATHS

Twins Ace Hardware co-owner Craig Smith (center) presents a check to Daniels Run social worker June Bloedorn and Principal Christopher Smith.

In previous years, Britepaths has assisted 2,500 students with school supplies. But this year – because of the increased need due to the pandemic – it also asked its supporters to help with this endeavor.

In addition to Twins Ace, the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors' Cares Committee, plus Mara Hair and Mode Studio in Fairfax City, both provided sponsorship funds, and many individuals and families donated, as well. And thanks to their generosity, Britepaths was able to exceed its \$40,000 fundraising goal.

Britepaths' Back-to-School program is part of Fairfax County's Collect for Kids partnership to ensure that as many FCPS students as possible with identified needs are able to start the school year with all the supplies necessary for them to succeed in the classroom.

CALENDAR

NOW THRU AUG. 29

Summer Table. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Building W-8, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Ceramic Artists Pam Eisenmann and Joan Ulrich offer two takes on convivial dining. Celebrating summer gatherings with lively handmade tableware: serving pieces, vases, sippers and more. Meet the artists on August 14th, 2-4 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 25

Lee District Nights. 7:30 p.m. At Lee District Park, Leonadus K. Plenty Amphitheater, Franconia. Aug. 25 - Sharon Clark Quartet (Jazz)

SATURDAY/AUG. 28

Summer Saturdays. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. Summer Saturdays is back! Join them virtually or in-person for hands-on history activities. Cost is \$0 to \$10. This program occurs at the same time every Saturday until August 28th. Visit the website: www.gunstonhall.org/event

SATURDAY/AUG. 28

Mount Vernon Nights. 8 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. Schedule August 28 – The U.S. Army Field Band, Six String Soldiers (Americana, Folk, Bluegrass, Irish)

SATURDAY/AUG. 28

Kidz Korner -- Oh Susannah. 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Old Town Square, Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Join in a fun

morning with your family. 10:30 a.m. Saturdays at Old Town Square. Pre-registration is required. Visit the website: <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts>

SATURDAY/AUG. 28

LESSON ZERO Performs. 6-9 p.m. At Crafthouse, 1161 Palace Way, Fairfax. For additional information see: www.youtube.com/lessonzero or www.reverbnaton.com/lessonzero

SUNDAY/AUG. 29

Model Trains Running. 1-4 p.m. At The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia NTRAK group will be running N gauge model trains. Admission: Children 4 and under and Museum members, free; ages 5-12, \$3; ages 13 and older, \$5, \$6 for special events. Seniors and military (active and retired) \$4. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR, 703-425-9225.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 11

Second Saturday Art Walk. 6-9 p.m. At The Workhouse Arts Center on the second Saturday of each month. It's the perfect time to meet nearly 100 resident and associate artists, creating art in the studios or exhibiting in 12 campus galleries. Indulge in classes in the art of mixology or cuisines from around the globe. Experience art exhibitions of the region's finest sculpture, painting, glass, ceramics, and fiber art works.

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