

Stark County Job & Family Services

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Human Services · Children Services · Child Support



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Steve Kristan, Nedra Petro, Shirley Bush, Stan Dearing, Tony Vinci, Shawn Beidenbach, Sandy Howel, Michelle Neisel, Commissioner Richard Regula.

[CANTON, OHIO]- The AT&T Pioneers, NE Ohio Chapter, recently delivered 60 wheeled, children's suitcases to Project KARE for Stark County Children Services. AT&T Pioneers is a network of retired and active employee volunteers committed to their communities. Project KARE is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes to address the needs of abused, neglected or dependent children and their families.

Each of the donated suitcases contains items collected by the Pioneers for use by children who come into care with the agency. "The Ohio Chapter works hard throughout the year, volunteering time and funding, to screen 501c3 charities in our state such as Project KARE," explained Steve Kristan, AT&T Director of External and Legislative Affairs. He added, "As long as there's a need Pioneers answer the call for help in every way imaginable."

"The Stark County AT&T Pioneers realize how precious our children are and saw an opportunity to make their world a little better. We applaud Project KARE and Children

Services for their dedicated service in support of our community and we are honored to assist in this way,” said Kristan.

“These suitcases and their contents will be helpful to many children in our area,” said Stark County Commissioner Richard Regula who was on-hand for the delivery. He added, “I want to thank the AT&T Pioneers Canton, Project KARE and Stark County Children Services for their commitment to our community.”

Nedra Petro, Deputy Director of Stark County Job & Family Services, Children Services Division, thanked the Pioneers for their generous donation. According to Petro, “When children come into care because of child abuse or neglect, many arrive on short notice with very few, if any, personal belongings. We want to help these children keep their possessions together and safe as they move to a foster or kinship home. These suitcases will help tremendously. They are not just a way to transport personal belongings. They can also help comfort and soothe children by providing personal items such as blankets, toiletries, stuffed animals to cuddle, new pajamas, and even school supplies. While helping ease a child’s transition into a foster or kinship home, these items also serve as a tangible reminder that there are people who care, especially at a time when children may feel most afraid, alone, and vulnerable.”