Meijer Team Members Support Metro United Way's Build-a-Bed Event

The Prosser Career & Education Center in New Albany, Ind. was buzzing with the heartwarming spirit of community as more than 150 volunteers, including four Meijer team members, came together for a remarkable cause – the Metro United Way's 7th annual Build-a-Bed event. This inspiring gathering wasn't just about assembling beds; it was about providing comfort to children in need.

The collective efforts of volunteers resulted in the creation of 203 beds, accompanied by family support kits comprising essential items like laundry bags, bedding, and hygiene products. These beds weren't just pieces of furniture; they were symbols of hope, offering children a sense of security and ownership that many take for granted.

Our Meijer team brought an extra spark to the event, showcasing their commitment and teamwork. In just three hours, the team constructed 17 twin beds.

"With no prior experience required, the event organizers made the process simple and accessible," said Kelly Doucet, Regional Community Partnerships Specialist at Meijer. "Our team had a fantastic experience working together and seeing others do the same. In fact, with every completed bed, groups got to ring a cowbell, bringing a sense of excitement – and a bit of friendly competition – into the mix."

The significance of this event extends beyond the numbers. For years, Metro United Way has been a beacon of support for communities across Clark, Floyd, and Harrison counties. Since its inception in 2017, the Build-a-Bed program has addressed a crucial need by providing approximately 950 students with the gift of a bed of their own.

For many children, transitioning from a crib or shared sleeping space to a personal bed marks a significant milestone in their lives. However, the reality is that not every child has access to such basic comforts, especially those facing financial hardship. This is where partnerships with local schools become invaluable. By collaborating with Southern Indiana schools, Metro United Way ensures resources like bed frames, mattresses, sheets, blankets, pillows, and laundry bags reach those who need them most.

As our team members and various other organizations came together to make a difference, they weren't just assembling beds; they were laying the foundation for brighter futures. Their dedication and generosity underscored the power of community and the transformative effect of simple acts of kindness.

"In the end, it's more than providing beds; it's about instilling a sense of dignity, belonging, and hope in the hearts of children," added Kelly. "By coming together to support initiatives like the Build-a-Bed event, we reaffirm our commitment to building a better, more compassionate community for all."

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