



VICTORY LODGE 1725
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION of MACHINISTS

and AEROSPACE WORKERS



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Good Afternoon Brother's & Sister's,

My name is Helena Thornton, Recording Secretary at Victory Lodge 1725 in Charlotte, NC. I'm reaching out to all of you for assistance in a project that our Women's & Young Worker's Committee, along with our local lodge has taken on. We have recently partnered with a local school in the area, "Renaissance West STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Math) Academy." This is a first of a kind in North Carolina and part of the cradle to career continuum within the West Boulevard Corridor. Renaissance West STEAM Academy was opened this year with model of success of the Charles R. Drew School, part of the Villages of East Lake Community in Atlanta. Before the school was established, only 5% of 5th graders in the neighborhood were able to meet math standards. Today, they are outpacing their peers across the state. In 2012, 99% of students in grades 3-8 met or exceeded state standards in reading and language arts and 98% in math.

Since March, myself and a few other members have been going to the school weekly reading to these children and taking food to be sent home for family's that may not have had the means to eat through the weekend. The majority of these children come from subsidized living and all they want is someone to come spend time with them and let them know that they can accomplish anything in life.

On June 1st, 2018 the Women's and Young Worker's Committee surprised the school with a cupcake day. Myself, Craig Vanderhoof (Young Worker's Chairman), Louis Gilmore and DL 141 AGC Mike Fairbanks passed out cupcakes to every child and staff member present that day!! The smiles that came to their faces, brought tears to my eyes....

What we would like to do is purchase 600 drawstring bags (to ensure each child receives one) with the IAMAW logo on them. We will fill them with school supplies (1 subject notebooks (wide ruled), pencils, crayons, erasers, colored pencils, scissors, glue sticks, hand sanitizers, Kleenex tissue, yellow highlighters, band-aids, gallon Ziploc bags, etc...) to give them a head start to a great school year, which starts August 27th, 2018. You can also find the full school supply list on the cms website.

We will be filling the bags the week of August 20th to hand out to the children at Open House on August 23rd, 2018. Also we will be providing a meal to all family's attending open house that day to provide the children with their bags.

We are truly grateful for all donations to assist the children in securing a stable foundation for what life has to offer them in the future. All proceeds will go to the cost of the bags, printing and supplies. I can be reached at calhounh95@yahoo.com or 704.357.0027 if you have any further questions.

In Solidarity,
Helena Thornton