

# Donated school supplies boost students' outlook

**Photos:** [Dayton School Box launches](#)

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DAYTON — Nkosi Perkins' eyes lit up like it was Christmas morning on Wednesday, Oct. 1, as he opened a large box of school supplies.

Perkins received one of more than 2,200 school supply kits to be distributed to Dayton Public School students in kindergarten through eighth grade as part of the 2008 Dayton School Box Program.

"It's to help with school and it helps us learn," said Perkins, a 7-year-old second grader at Patterson-Kennedy PK-8 School.

Now in its fourth year, the program is presented by Standard Register and coordinated by the Kids in Need Foundation and Crayons to Classrooms. It received \$41,500 in total contributions from sponsors that also included LexisNexis, Vectren, GE Money and the Iams Co., said Jill Moberley, Dayton Public Schools spokeswoman.

"The sponsors are just doing a wonderful job of sending a message to our students, 'This is what we do to show you that we value you and that we believe in your potential,' " said Marilyn Croker, principal of Patterson-Kennedy School.

The program is a means to help children achieve success in the classroom, said Jane McGee-Rafal, chief academic officer for Dayton Schools.

Each kit contained dozens of items, including folders, notebooks, glue, pens, paper, erasers, crayons, pencils, scissors, facial tissues and more.

"More so than the School Boxes, they see adults who believe in them," Croker said.

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