

Coming back

Students see rewards of contributions

By **WAYNE QUESENBERY**/Staff

For the past two years, the Family Career Community Leaders of America (**FCCLA**) at Fort Chiswell High School has supported the Feed the Children Program as part of its national community service. This week, FCCLA members witnessed the results of their contributions.

Through the Christian, international, nonprofit relief organization, Wythe County schools received book bags packed with school supplies. They also were given a pallet of children's math workbooks and packets of snack foods.

"It's great for the kids to realize

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ize that their contributions actually help their locality," noted Rita Bowles, FCCLA adviser. "It's good for them to see help come back to the community. We're really pleased to receive the school supplies and snacks."

Headquartered in Oklahoma City, Okla., Feed the Children delivers food, medicine, clothing and other necessities to individuals, children and families who lack these essentials because of famine, war, poverty or natural disaster. It works closely with corporate partners that donate surplus food and other supplies and with individual donors who help defray the cost of transporting the product donations.

"For the last two years, the FCCLA has supported Feed the Children as a national community

service," Bowles pointed out. "Last year, over \$200,000 was collected for Feed the Children. Virginia had the second highest contributions in the United States."

Martha Luper, Fort Chiswell Middle School guidance counselor, organized the local effort. She worked with her friend, Pat Frost, a social worker

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Department of Social Services, to share the school supplies from Feed the Children.

"Pat did the leg work," Luper remarked. "She asked me if our school would be interested in sharing the donations and I told her yes."

Tommy Stone of Rock-in' Hills Farms in the Fort Chiswell community, Luper's friend, volunteered his truck and trailer to haul the supplies to Fort Chiswell Middle School. Cheerleaders and FCCLA members unloaded the truck.

According to Luper, the 240 book bags and snack packs were separated into categories for elementary, junior high and high school students. The book bags also include toothpaste, toothbrushes and combs for elementary graders while deodorant and calculators were inside the high school book bags.

FCMS Principal Becki James did a mass e-mailing to all the Wythe County principals telling them the supplies were available. She spent Monday

morning helping them select items for their schools.

"The number of book bags a school gets depends on the school's enrollment," Luper said. "The individual schools will determine which students need the supplies."



STUDENT LABOR:
Fort Chiswell students unload boxes of school supplies and snacks provided through Feed the Children Program. The items will be distributed to all the schools in the county.

