



Sparks help make school days special

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Back-to-school time will be extra special for local kids who can't afford the basic tools they need to learn, thanks to a national school supplies drive.

"American Idol" songstress Jordin Sparks, office supply giant Staples and DoSomething.org have teamed up for "Do Something 101," an effort to help teens get the goods they need to head back to the classroom.

The campaign urges teens to donate school supplies at any Staples by Aug. 31. The classroom essentials will be donated to other local teens in need through 10 Boys & Girls Club locations and the Hanscom Air Force Base Youth Center.

"Being able to provide school supplies has an extra meaning this year," said Harry Duvall, executive director of the South Boston Boys & Girls Club. "It's an extra bill (families) don't have to worry about. We don't want teens going into the classroom unprepared."

Duvall hopes to put supplies in the hands of parents by the end of the club's summer camp.

Staples is donating \$50,000 worth of supplies.

"We're proud to be spearheading a campaign that gives young people the power to lead something that matters to them," said Do Something CEO Nancy Lublin.

Sparks stars in a public service announcement airing on TV, radio, BusRadio and online hotspots MySpace [[website](#)] and Facebook.

"There are so many kids in America that need school supplies that don't have them and all somebody has to do is donate them," the crooner said in a statement. "It's so easy."