

The North Toledo Network (NTN) will host the 3rd Annual Back-To-School Festival on August 21st from 4:00pm-7:00pm at the Summit YMCA, 306 Bush Street.

The purpose of the Festival is to “distribute school supplies to children in need, heighten awareness of local agency resources, have kids learn about healthy life style choices and to just have fun before going back to school,” according to event organizer Nitja Morrow who serves as the Summit YMCA’s Family Program Director.

The goal of this year’s festival is to provide for at least 500 back pack giveaways for youth in grades k-8 whose family lacks the necessary means to provide them with school supplies. The only requirement for the youth to receive the back pack is that the parent must be present with the child at the time of distribution. In addition to receiving the book bags, the children will also be able to “win” additional school supplies by playing games and participating in activities set up for the event.

Parents will also be able to gather additional information regarding available services from the following agencies who will have staff and information on-hand: Friendly Center, Mercy Health Partners, Paramount Advantage, GEAR UP/ Think College Now, Kinship Navigator, Lucas County Children’s Services Bureau, Plain Talk teen pregnancy prevention program, NorthRiver Weed & Seed, Salem Lutheran Church, Shots for Tots, United North Youth Empowerment Program and Summit YMCA.

As a part of the Back-To-School Festival, NTN partner Northgate Community Church, 1509 N. Ontario Street, will host a free Pig Roast from 5:30pm until 6:30pm, as well as serve as a back pack giveaway site for youth grades k-6 from 4:30pm until 5:30pm.

Donations of school supplies, book bags and/or door prizes are needed to make the event a success. You can drop off your donations at any NTN partnering agency, or contact Valerie Moffitt at United North offices located at 725 Lagrange Street, (419) 720-6812 ext. 20 to arrange for a pick-up of your donation.