

Fun evening, free school supplies offered on Friday

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The children of Lawton are invited to have fun and pick up some free school supplies.

The MIGHT Community Development and Resource Center, 714 SW 45th, will host the Back to School/Stay in School Bash at 5:30 p.m. Friday, said MIGHT director Bernita Taylor. MIGHT is hosting the event in conjunction with Saint James Baptist Church, pastored by the Rev. James Taylor.

Taylor said children from 4-18 years old are invited to attend the event, along with their families. Elementary-age children will need to be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

There will be carnival-style games and other forms of family entertainment. The kids will receive free backpacks full of school supplies and candy.

Everyone will have a chance to eat free hot dogs, Taylor said. She added chips and drinks will be available for 50 cents each and hamburgers will be for sale at \$1 each. All money raised will

got to help MIGHT provide services to client families.

Free vision and dental screenings will be offered to all children, Taylor said.

Parents will also be able to enroll their children in MIGHT's new technology-rich 4-year-old program that will begin in August, and in MIGHT's before-and-after-school programs. Information on all of MIGHT's family services will be available.

A refurbished Dell computer will be given away as a door prize.

Taylor said MIGHT fed meals to over 5,000 kids this summer and she saw many families who will have trouble affording school supplies.

She said the event is MIGHT's way of helping those families cope with back-to-school expenses.

Taylor said MIGHT is trying to raise money to also help families in need purchase school "uniforms" to meet the mandatory modified dress code at some Lawton schools before Lawton Public Schools starts the new academic year on Aug. 15.

For more information, call MIGHT, 595-4808.



Stephen Robertson/Staff
Ramiro Granados hopes for a prize at the ring toss that was part of a back-to-school celebration Friday. The event, sponsored by MIGHT Community Resource Center, was at St. James Baptist Church and included food, school supplies and games.



STEPHEN ROBERTSON/STAFF
Brian Pack of Marie Detty Youth and Family Service Center's gang prevention program hands out school supplies to, from left, Ondai Stevenson, Aaron Rocker, Gracie Harvin and Desare Easley during a back-to-school event Friday sponsored by MIGHT Community Resource Center. The event, held at St. James Baptist Church, included free food and school supplies, as well as carnival games.



STEPHEN ROBERTSON/STAFF
Walter Mays cooks up a batch of hot dogs at Friday's back-to-school celebration at St. James Baptist Church. The event included free food and school supplies, as well as games. Mays is the Safe Play coordinator for Marie Detty Youth & Family Services.