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Lee's Summit non-profit wants to provide laptops for low-income college students

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Giving Hope & Help in Lee's Summit is kicking off a drive to provide 2015 low-income high school graduating scholars with laptops and bedding to help them start their college careers.

Executive Director Jessica McClellan said the goal of the non-profit's "Education Is Your Passport Program" is to provide educational and financial assistance for students ages from pre-kindergarten to college students.

It is starting with a drive to help 50 low-income students meet needs beyond those covered by their scholarships, she said, and is looking for community and corporate support to collect twin coordinated "Bed in a Bag" sets and new laptops through June 15, to be distributed to students in July.

Lee's Summit West High School Student Advisory Council and the student body are partnering with Giving Hope & Help to make the drive a success, she said. The school set a goal to collect at least 25 coordinated bed sets and a minimum of \$500 toward a laptop. McClellan said Debbie Katzfey, athletics and activities assistant principal is "super excited about the students participating to help those in need."

The qualification to receive a new laptop and bedding is that the student be a low-income, 2015 graduate who has received a scholarship from another organization. The student must hold a GPA of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale. Proof of received scholarship, acceptance to a four-year college or university and high-school transcript must be submitted.

McClellan said Giving Hope & Help is working with the community and educational organizations to have students referred to the program. She said the ultimate goal is to assist students get to and through college, with volunteers who also will mentor and assist them in their college career.

. To reach Giving Hope & Help go to: <http://givinghopeandhelp.com/>

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