



## **Aetna Better Health® of Illinois donates over \$72,000 to under-resourced communities to kick off 2024 school year**

**DOWNERS GROVE, ILL., AUG. 30, 2024** –To help relieve the financial burden on Illinois families, Aetna Better Health of Illinois, a CVS Health® company (NYSE: [CVS](#)), has donated over \$72,000 to support back-to-school initiatives and over 24,000 school supplies to community organizations throughout Illinois.

By collaborating with community partners, Aetna supplied thousands of children in need with backpacks, pencils, pens, folders, notebooks, crayons and color pencils to help prepare them with the tools they need to succeed this school year. This funding will help alleviate some of the financial challenges students and their families face on a day-to-day basis.

Almost 40 percent of shoppers [report](#) trimming their budgets in other areas to afford the higher costs for back-to-school supplies.

“We look forward each year to partnering with schools and community organizations across the state to help parents and students get ready for the new school year,” said Rushil Desai, CEO of Aetna Better Health of Illinois. “We provide school supplies and education on resources available to them in their communities to make their lives a bit easier this time of year. Aetna is committed to building healthier communities and we understand wellness extends beyond physical health. That’s why this school year we’ve joined forces with new partners to offer digital behavioral health platforms to provide students with not only school supplies, but online support to help them excel in and outside of the classroom.”

Aetna has hosted and participated in more than 35 back-to-school events across the state. Among the recipients of the donations and sponsorships include:

- Back 2 School Alliance
- Chicago Defender’s Bud Billiken Parade
- Chicago Public Schools
- In His Hands Resource Center
- TCA Health
- The Kindness Campaign
- Youth Hope

In addition to these community donations and initiatives, Aetna Better Health of Illinois offers free school clothes to help members to get ready for the school year.

Aetna Better Health of Illinois serves over 370,000 Medicaid members in 102 counties. The health plan offers value-added benefits and best practices that have proven positive results in utilization, health gap closures and member satisfaction. For more information about Aetna Better Health of Illinois, visit our website, [www.aetnabetterhealth.com/illinois-medicaid](http://www.aetnabetterhealth.com/illinois-medicaid).

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### **About Aetna Medicaid**

Aetna Medicaid Administrators LLC (Aetna Medicaid), a CVS Health company, has over 30 years of experience managing the care of under-resourced populations, using innovative approaches and a local presence in each market to achieve both successful health care results and effective cost outcomes. Aetna Medicaid has expertise serving high-need Medicaid members, including those who are dually eligible for Medicaid and Medicare. Currently, Aetna Medicaid owns and/or administers Medicaid managed health care plans under the names of Aetna Better Health and other affiliate names. Together, these plans serve members in 16 states, including Arizona, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia. For more information, see [www.aetnabetterhealth.com](http://www.aetnabetterhealth.com).

### **About CVS Health**

[CVS Health](#)<sup>®</sup> is the leading health solutions company, delivering care like no one else can. We reach more people and improve the health of communities across America through our local presence, digital channels and over 300,000 dedicated colleagues – including more than 40,000 physicians, pharmacists, nurses, and nurse practitioners. Wherever and whenever people need us, we help them with their health – whether that's managing chronic diseases, staying compliant with their medications, or accessing affordable health and wellness services in the most convenient ways. We help people navigate the health care system – and their personal health care – by improving access, lowering costs and being a trusted partner for every meaningful moment of health. And we do it all with heart, each and every day. Follow @CVSHealth on social media.

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