

NEWS RELEASE

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Thousands of School Children Benefit From United Way's "Stuff the School Bus"

San Luis Obispo, CA – Local students are ready to go back to school thanks to United Way of San Luis Obispo County's Stuff the Bus event. In this second year of the program, the school buses expanded their stays at the three SLO County locations from one day to eight. Volunteers helped to collect and sort supplies outside the Office Max stores in Arroyo Grande, Paso Robles, and in San Luis Obispo from August 13-20. Special thanks to Meathead Movers and San Luis Paper Co. for providing the boxes used to sort the donations on the buses, and to the dedicated bus drivers who went above and beyond to help sort and deliver donations.

"We appreciate the support of the community through United Way's Stuff the Bus campaign in meeting the needs of our students," said Grover Beach Elementary School principal, Juan Olivarría. "We are very grateful to live in a community that cares so much about our children."

Donations made at the Arroyo Grande Office Max store were distributed to the Lucia Mar School District, and supplies were given to the three schools in most need, Oceano, Nipomo and Grover Beach Elementary School.

Supplies from the Paso Robles bus were distributed through the Paso Robles Public Schools District, to all North County School Districts, including San Miguel, Pleasant Valley, Shandon, Templeton and Atascadero School Districts.

Supplies from the San Luis Obispo Office Max store were supplied to all 14 sites in the San Luis Coastal Unified School District, and were divided by age appropriateness and given to those considered Title I or High Need.

"Just like every school district in the county, we have a good chunk of students who, because of this economy have families who are in trouble, having a hard time. These supplies are exactly what a lot of our students need," said student services coordinator Ian Trejo of San Luis Coastal School District. "We've sent a large box of supplies to every site in the district and so I would say thousands of students will benefit from Stuff the Bus."

Schools supplies from the three buses filled over 150 boxes, including over 2,000 notebooks, 2,000 boxes of crayons, and 3,000 packages of pencils and pens, and totaled an estimated \$35,000 in in-kind donations.

For more information about this and other United Way of San Luis Obispo County programs, visit www.unitedwayslo.org.

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This news release is available on the United Way of San Luis Obispo County website at <http://www.unitedwayslo.org/News/index.html>