



United Way of  
San Luis Obispo County



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# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 9, 2011

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## KidSpree on July 24<sup>th</sup> Provided 202 Local Children With Back-to-School Clothes

*Paso Robles and San Luis Obispo, Calif.* – This year, over 200 local children were helped during KidSpree, an annual shopping event that provides low-income children with back-to-school clothing. Thanks to the community's generosity, these children are now ready to go back to school this fall with pride and self-esteem. United Way of San Luis Obispo County, in partnership with Kohl's, brought together hundreds of individuals, service organizations, businesses and donors on Sunday, July 24 to make the event possible. This is the 12<sup>th</sup> year that United Way has hosted this event.

Donations from the community allowed K-12 children the chance to attend the event. Participating children are nominated by local nonprofit agencies and were paired with a community volunteer to help them shop for the items they most need. Each child had a \$100.00 store gift card to spend in addition to a 15% discount and no sales tax from Kohl's. Kohl's sales associates volunteered their time in both Paso Robles and San Luis Obispo, and each store sponsored five children.

"It is great to see the way the community unites to help these children. Many supporters come out for this event year after year," said KidSpree event administrator and high school teacher, Suzy Sittig. "For many children and youth, this is their only opportunity to receive something new this year, and it not only provides them with clothing necessities, but also boosts their self esteem and brings a bit of joy to their lives. I spoke with one teenage girl who was so thankful because said she hadn't been shopping in nine months."

The Kiwanis Clubs of Atascadero and Paso Robles provided breakfast for the volunteers and children at the Paso Robles location and the Kiwanis Club of Bay-Osos cooked a pancake breakfast for participants in San Luis Obispo. The San Luis Obispo County YMCA fingerprinted all volunteers, free of charge. Significant corporate sponsorships of the children came from the Kiwanis Club of SLO Morning, Lindamood-Bell Learning Processes and Santa Barbara Bank & Trust with each sponsoring 10 children, Running/Tennis Warehouse sponsored 30 kids and Zurn Wilkins provided sponsorship of 40 children. Groups of volunteers participated from the Rotaract Club of San Luis Obispo, the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce and Zurn Wilkins. Event photographers included Lance Kinney and Paul Sittig.

Photos from the event are available online at <http://www.unitedwayslo.org/News/10/spree/pics/pics.html>

For more information, visit United Way's website at [www.unitedwayslo.org](http://www.unitedwayslo.org) or e-mail Suzy Sittig at [kidspree@unitedwayslo.org](mailto:kidspree@unitedwayslo.org).

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