

Get on Board with United Way Stuff the Bus

Help Collect School Supplies from July 15 through Aug. 5

1. What is **Stuff the Bus**?
Stuff the Bus is a countywide drive to gather basic school supplies for children who otherwise would not be able to afford them. We're collecting things such as backpacks, binders, paper, notebooks, pens, pencils, crayons and all those other things that kids need to be able to keep up in the classroom.
2. Who is spearheading this drive?
United Way Monterey County is spearheading the school supply drive. We want every child to start school with self-confidence, knowing they have the same supplies as everyone else. You can reach us at 831 372-8026.
3. Why is United Way involved in **Stuff the Bus**?
UWMC sees this as an investment in our future. Providing children with the necessary supplies to participate in school promotes learning, encourages self-esteem and helps kids stay in school. United Way stepped in when we learned that organizations that had gathered school supplies in years past did not have the resources to do it this year.
4. Why is Fashion Bug involved?
We wanted to give back to the community and we know that back-to-school spending can really stress a family's finances. We also see it as an investment in the future of our community -- we're helping prepare our future workforce.
5. How much does UWMC hope to collect this year?
Ideally, we'd like to send each child in need back to school ready to learn. There are more than 3,000 students who are homeless or in foster care. Many more are from families that are struggling to get by. We hope to serve as many of those students as we can.
6. How much did you collect last year?
For Monterey County, this is our first year for **Stuff the Bus**. Santa Cruz County is in its third year of **Stuff the Bus**. Last year they sent approximately 1500 students back to school equipped to learn with stuffed backpacks.
7. Who will get the backpacks?
Backpacks will be distributed through the Monterey County Office of Education (MCOE) to elementary and middle school students throughout the county who are homeless, in foster care or in great need based on family income.
8. How are the children selected that will receive the school supplies?
MCOE will work with local school district staff to distribute supplies to children who are homeless, in foster care and in the greatest need.

9. What can I do to help?

There are many ways to help.

- Host a barrel at your location (July 15-Aug. 5)
- Offer discount coupons to your customers
- Donate supplies at one of our many locations.
- Donate gift cards or money. Please make checks payable to UWMC and note the donation is for **Stuff the Bus**. For credit cards, please call 831 372-8026 and say you want to donate to Stuff the Bus.
- Volunteer to **Stuff the Bus** (10am to 2pm on Saturday, Aug. 6 at the Westridge Shopping Center, Davis Road, Salinas) Visit www.unitedwaymcca.org/volunteer to find out more.

10. Can I just make a cash contribution? Credit card?

Yes, you can donate money or gift cards. Make checks payable to UWMC and note that the money is for **Stuff the Bus**. To make a credit card donation, please call the UWMC office at 372-8026, Monday thru Friday, 8am-5pm and provide your credit card information. All money donated will go directly to **Stuff the Bus**.

11. How much does it cost for one "stuffed backpack"?

We estimate that a new backpack stuffed with the basic school supplies necessary costs approximately \$25.

12. How will you sort the supplies?

On Aug. 6 we will ask volunteers to come to the Westridge Shopping Center on Davis Road in Salinas and help us assemble backpacks and load them onto an MCOE bus for delivery. We are looking for volunteers to help us, so please visit our website to learn more and to sign up.

13. When will the backpacks be distributed?

The backpacks will be distributed either before the start of school or on the first day of classes by MCOE staff and teachers to students throughout the county who are in the greatest need. Any extra supplies will be kept to distribute to children who start school after the first day.

14. May I donate individual items or do I need to donate a complete backpack?

You can donate individual items or a complete backpack. The need is great and any assistance for the students is welcome.

15. How long will you be accepting school supplies?

We will pack all donated supplies into backpacks on Aug. 6. For Monterey County, we'll be at the Westridge Shopping Center on Davis Road in Salinas. In Monterey County, any supplies that come in after that date will be delivered to MCOE as there is a continuing need throughout the year. You can check directly with Santa Cruz.

19. How long will UWMC be collecting the school supplies?

July 15 - August . We will pick up the barrels from the various locations on Aug. 5 but donors can drop off last-minute supplies at the Westridge Shopping Center on Davis Road in Salinas before noon on Aug. 6 during our sorting event.

16. What supplies go into the backpacks?

A stuffed backpack consists of:

<u>Elementary Backpack</u>	<u>Jr. High Backpack</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Backpack (no solid red or blue please) <input type="checkbox"/> 1-inch, 3-ring binder <input type="checkbox"/> 3-ring binder paper, school rule <input type="checkbox"/> 5-tab dividers <input type="checkbox"/> Colored pencils, (12 count) <input type="checkbox"/> (8- or 24-count) crayons <input type="checkbox"/> Pocket folders <input type="checkbox"/> Pencil sharpener <input type="checkbox"/> Pens, (12 or more) <input type="checkbox"/> Pencils #2 (12 or more) <input type="checkbox"/> Pencil cap erasers, 12-pack <input type="checkbox"/> Scissors, 5 1/4", blunt tip <input type="checkbox"/> Ruler, 12" plastic <input type="checkbox"/> Glue stick, dries clear <input type="checkbox"/> Construction paper, 9"x12"	<input type="checkbox"/> Backpack (no solid red or blue please) <input type="checkbox"/> Calculator, 10-digit w/cover <input type="checkbox"/> 1-inch, 3-ring binder <input type="checkbox"/> 3-ring binder paper <input type="checkbox"/> 5-tab dividers <input type="checkbox"/> Spiral notebooks, 70 Ct, college rule <input type="checkbox"/> Pencil sharpener <input type="checkbox"/> Colored pencils, (12 count) <input type="checkbox"/> Pens (12 or more) <input type="checkbox"/> Pencils, #2 (12 or more) <input type="checkbox"/> Eraser, large pink <input type="checkbox"/> Ruler, 12" plastic <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow highlighter <input type="checkbox"/> Dictionary, pocket

17. Where can I donate?

There are locations throughout the county. To find the location nearest you, please visit the United Way website in Santa Cruz or Monterey counties or call 2-1-1 in Monterey County. www.unitedwaymcca.org in Monterey, www.unitedwaysc.org in Santa Cruz. Here are the Monterey County locations:

- **Cesar Chavez Library**, 615 Williams Rd, Salinas
- **CSUMB Library Cafe**, CSUMB Campus, Seaside
- **CSUMB Otter Express**, CSUMB Campus Bldg. 14, Seaside
- **CSUMB Dining Commons**, CSUMB Campus Bldg. 16, Seaside
- **Coldwell Banker Realty**, 3775 Via Nona Marie, Carmel
- **La Princesa Market**, 239 Huerta Ave., Greenfield
- **La Princesa Market**, 401 El Camino Real, Greenfield
- **La Princesa Market**, 516 East Alisal St., Salinas
- **Fashion Bug**, 1235 N. Davis Rd., Salinas
- **Monterey County Office of Education**, 901 Blanco Circle, Salinas
- **Monterey County Herald**, 8 Upper Ragsdale Drive, Ryan Ranch, Monterey
- **Pacific Valley Bank**, 422 Main Street, Salinas
- **Monterey City Library**, 625 Pacific St, Monterey

- **Monterey County Weekly**, 668 Williams Ave., Seaside
- **Rabobank**, 10601 Merritt St., Castroville
- **Rabobank**, 561 Lighthouse, Pacific Grove
- **Rabobank**, 228 Reservation Rd., Marina
- **Rabobank**, 532 Broadway St., King City
- **Rabobank**, 2149 H Dela Rosa St, Soledad
- **Rabobank**, 301 Main St., Salinas
- **Rabobank**, 400 Alta St., Gonzales
- **Rabobank**, 1658 Fremont Blvd., Seaside
- **Rabobank**, 1285 North Davis Rd., Salinas
- **Rabobank**, 439 Alvarado St., Monterey
- **Salinas Valley Community Church**, 368 San Juan Grade Rd, Salinas
- **Seaside City Hall**, 440 Harcourt Ave, Seaside
- **Seaside Fire Dept**, 1635 Broadway, Seaside
- **Soledad City Hall**, 248 Main Street, Soledad
- **Tarpy's Roadhouse**, 2999 Salinas Monterey Highway, Monterey
- **UWMC Offices**, 60 Garden Court, Monterey or 376 Main St., Salinas
- **YMCA**, 117 Clay Street, Salinas
- **YMCA**, 560 Walker Drive, Soledad

Monterey County Free Libraries:

- **Castroville Branch**, 11160 Speegle St., Castroville
- **Pajaro Branch**, 29 Bishop St., Pajaro
- **Prunedale Branch**, 17822 Moro Road, Prunedale
- **Buena Vista Branch**, 18250 Tara Dr., Salinas
- **Carmel Valley Branch**, 65 W. Carmel Valley Rd., Carmel Valley
- **Seaside Branch**, 550 Harcourt Ave., Seaside
- **Greenfield Branch**, 315 El Camino Real, Greenfield
- **King City Branch**, 402 Broadway Ave., King City
- **Soledad Branch**, 401 Gabilan Dr., Soledad

Santa Cruz locations:

Palace Art & Office Supply, all Bay Federal Credit Union branches, all Wells Fargo branches, the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, 400 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, and the United Way of Santa Cruz County offices at 4450 Capitola Road, Suite 106 in Capitola.

18. Is it too late to have a barrel at our site?

No, it's not too late. In Monterey County, please give Fatima a call at 372-8026, x103 and she can help you. In Santa Cruz, please call Sean at 479-5466. Even if you don't have a barrel, you can run a drive in your business. We will be happy to pick up the supplies or you can drop them off at the UW offices in Salinas, Monterey or in Capitola.

19. Can I donate used supplies?

Our preference is that all supplies for this drive be new. However, if you have a gently used item that you believe will benefit a young student, please donate it.

20. I need a backpack for my children, who do I contact?

Backpacks will be distributed by each individual school's staff working in partnership with the homeless liaisons and MCOE.