

For Immediate Release

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Urgent request for Backpack Bash donations to equip El Paso County students in need

Colorado Springs, July 17, 2020 — There's only a week left to donate to help Pikes Peak United Way and COSILoveYou reach our goal of equipping 10,000 students across El Paso County with backpacks full of school supplies.

We are urgently requesting the community's help. Donations are down, and the need is so great. The drive ends July 24.

There are three easy ways to contribute:

- Drop off new donations at one of our donation sites across the Pikes Peak region, including 10 Walmart locations.
- Order items through our Backpack Bash drive registry on walmart.com at walmart.com/registry/registryforgood/19cd910f-d537-4f2e-8e70-d3211863dbb9/view, which will be delivered to Pikes Peak United Way.
- Make a financial donation at cosiloveyou.com/backpackbash.

All donated items must be new, and backpacks will be stuffed by volunteers before distributing them to children.

The most-needed items are high school and elementary school backpacks, in addition to spiral notebooks (college and wide ruled), 3-ring binders, pens (blue, black or red), pencils, plastic pocket folders and face masks.

Other items that can be donated: mechanical pencils, colored pencils, erasers, highlighters, rulers, protractors, loose leaf college ruled paper, 3x5 index cards, scientific or basic calculators, thumb drives, dry erase markers, facial tissue, hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes.

The drop-off sites include:

- Pikes Peak United Way, 518 N. Nevada Ave., open weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m
- Westside Community Center, 1628 W. Bijou St., open weekdays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m
- Nunn Construction, 925 Elkton Drive, open weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Mountain Springs Church, 7345 Adventure Way, open Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Tri-Lakes Cares, 235 N. Jefferson St. in Monument, open Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- State Farm, 1710 S. Circle Drive, open Thursdays and Fridays, 2 to 5 p.m.
- The following Walmart drop-off locations are open every day 7 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Colorado Springs Walmarts:

3201 E. Platte Ave.
707 S. 8th St.
8250 Razorback Road
4425 Venetucci Blvd.
1575 Space Center Drive
5550 E. Woodmen Road

Monument:

16218 Jackson Creek Parkway

Falcon:
11550 Meridian Market View

Woodland Park:
19600 E. U.S. 24

Fountain:
6310 S. U.S. Hwy 85/87

To claim a free backpack, visit one of the following locations:

Aug. 1, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- Mission Trace Shopping Center, 3031 S. Academy Blvd.
- Mountain Springs Church, 7345 Adventure Way
- Coronado High School, 1590 W. Fillmore St.

Aug. 8, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- Doherty High School, 4515 Barnes Road
- Tri-Lakes YMCA, 17250 Jackson Creek Pkwy in Monument

Backpacks will be given out on a first-come, first-served basis. Each family can visit one Backpack Bash location, and each child must be present to receive a backpack. To maintain safety in the age of COVID-19, backpacks will be distributed via a drive-through, and all attendees are asked to wear masks.

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About Pikes Peak United Way Pikes Peak United Way works to advance the common good, creating opportunities for a better life for all by focusing on the three key quality of life building blocks — education, income and health. Pikes Peak United Way creates long-lasting community change by addressing the underlying causes that prevent progress in these areas. For more information about Pikes Peak United Way, please visit ppunitedway.org.