

For Immediate Release

Contact: Ellie Mulder
ellie@ppunitedway.org

Backpack Bash has goal of equipping 10,000 students with backpacks full of supplies

Colorado Springs, July 6, 2020 — Pikes Peak United Way and COSILoveYou are teaming up over the next month to equip 10,000 kids in El Paso County with backpacks full of school supplies.

Donated items will be collected over a three-week period at locations across the Pikes Peak region. On two days in August, the free backpacks will be distributed to thousands of families who visit one of five locations.

Stu Davis, executive director of COSILoveYou, is available for interviews.

The Backpack Bash drive will be held July 6 - 24, with 16 sites collecting backpacks and supplies, including 10 Walmart locations. 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 are:

- 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.

To volunteer at the Backpack Bash, visit Pikes Peak United Way's volunteer portal at pikespeakuw.galaxydigital.com/agency/detail/?agency_id=113631.

Community members also can make a financial donation at cosiloveyou.com/backpackbash. Nunn Construction is challenging the Pikes Peak region to match or exceed its commitment to outfit 1,000 students for the upcoming school year.

The following businesses, agencies and organizations helped make the Backpack Bash possible: Coca-Cola, Thrivent, NUNN Construction, Walmart, Crossfire Ministries, Mercy's Gate, The Salvation Army, Tri-Lakes Cares, Solid Rock CDC, Fresh Start Center, Pikes Peak YMCA, Harrison School District 2, Colorado Springs School District 11, Mountain Springs Church, Discovery Church, Springs Journey Church and Manna Church.

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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.

About COSILoveYOU COSILoveYou seeks to unite and ignite the church of Colorado Springs so that every woman, man, and child in the Pikes Peak region experiences the tangible love of God. Working across faith, business, and civic sectors, COSILoveYou seeks to develop collaborative solutions to some of our community's most pressing challenges, believing that much more can be accomplished together than separately.