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11th Annual Hands4Hope - Youth Making A Difference School Supply Drive Collection Hoping to Fill 700 Backpacks

For the 11th year in a row, nonprofit organization Hands4Hope - Youth Making A Difference is collecting backpacks and essential school supplies to help local students in need start the year off on the right foot. The community can contribute by dropping off supply donations at locations throughout the region, coming by the “Stuff the Bus” event happening on July 17 at El Dorado Hills Town Center Target parking lot, shopping the Hands4Hope Amazon wish list, or contributing financially. This effort is organized and led by Hands4Hope youth participants.

The school supplies collected during this drive are essential to offset costs for local families who are struggling financially. More than 700 students in need in grades TK through 12th are expected to “shop” during the distribution event in early August.

Donations needed include new backpacks of all sizes, especially backpacks for middle and high school students; plus items to go in the backpacks, such as paper, composition books, colored pencils, mechanical pencils, crayons, markers, rulers, scientific calculators, ring binders, sharpies, highlighters, scissors, dry erase markers, pocket folders, and packs of 3x5 notecards.

“The School Supply Drive is one of my favorite committees to work with,” says Addison Hunt, a rising Senior at Oak Ridge High School and Project Manager for the youth-led committee. “It is really fun to work with different people and organizations during the collection process. It’s also really cool to be able to see your hard work pay off when the kids who need it are able to pick out their own school supplies for the upcoming school year.”

Supply donations are being collected through Wednesday, July 17, and may be dropped in Hands4Hope blue collection barrels located at 20 locations from Folsom through Placerville, including Big Apple Bagel locations in Folsom and El Dorado Hills, El Dorado Hills Community Services District, Snap Fitness in Shingle Springs, and Thompson Family of Dealerships in Placerville.

Additionally, donations can be brought to the exciting “Stuff the Bus” event on Wednesday, July 14 at the El Dorado Hills Town Center, near Target, where a big yellow school bus from El Dorado County Office of Education will stand at the ready to receive and transport supply donations.

A complete list of items needed and drop off locations can be found on the Hands4Hope website at hands4hopeyouth.org/schoolsupplydrive. On that website, Hands4Hope also offers donors the option of shopping an Amazon wish list or simply sponsoring a student through a direct financial gift.

The Hands4Hope - Youth Making A Difference School Supply Drive Committee is youth led with the help of adult mentors. The committee's goal is to ensure that *all* students have what they need to be successful in the 2024-25 school year. The committee develops advertising, markets for, and hosts the School Supply Drive. It collects and distributes all donated supplies to the Placerville Union School District in conjunction with the El Dorado County Office of Education. Additional youth and adult volunteers are invited to join this effort by participating in the “Stuff the Bus” event or in the distribution event.

Hands4Hope - Youth Making A Difference is a nonprofit youth driven organization with the mission to inspire and empower youth in leadership and service. Hands4Hope - Youth Making A Difference offers hands-on education and community engagement opportunities to youth from K-12th grades through on-campus and after-school programs in Sacramento and El Dorado Counties. For more information about Hands4Hope - Youth Making A Difference, visit www.hands4hopeyouth.org or call 916-294-7426.

[PHOTOS FROM 2023 SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE](#)