

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

United Way of Northern California  
2280 Benton Drive, Building B  
Redding, CA 96003  
530-241-7521  
norcalunitedway.org

Media Contact:  
Larry Olmstead, 530-241-7521  
lolmstead@norcalunitedway.org



United Way  
of Northern California

### **Cummins / United Way Back-to-School Project**

*United Way of Northern California and Cummins Sales & Service come together,  
provide school supplies to low income students*

REDDING, CA (Sept. 13, 2017) — A large mountain of drawstring backpacks recently filled the Cummins Sales and Service conference room as employees prepared back-to-school supplies for children of low-income families attending the Eagles Soar Youth Activity Center (ESYAC) after-school program.

In partnership with United Way of Northern California, Cummins employees filled 150 bags with school supplies, providing much needed relief to parents, who otherwise might be called to spend as much as \$100 per student on school essentials.

“Many parents struggle with basic needs in our community and back-to-school shopping can often take a backseat to bills and groceries. Our hope is that these supplies give students a sense of confidence and motivate them to do well in school,” said Christina Gutierrez, Communications & Outreach Specialist for United Way of Northern California.

“Cummins Inc. is proud to be very active in helping and improving the communities where we operate,” said Charlie Burton, the firm’s Redding service manager.

The back-to-school project is part of a large-scale philanthropy initiative between local United Way organizations and Cummins locations across North America.

Many students attending ESYAC live in motels and trailer parks. ESYAC is run and staffed by volunteers and provides homework help, meals, shoes, mentoring, summer fun and more. The program is also supported by Shasta Family YMCA, a United Way partner agency.

The bags were delivered Tuesday. “Cummins sending school supplies has helped our kids to be on an equal footing with the other children in their classes,” said Patti Brent, ESYAC director. “You should’ve seen the smiles on their faces when they opened the bags and looked in.”

#### **About United Way of Northern California:**

United Way of Northern California (UWNC) was established in Redding in 1953 and serves nine counties: Butte, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama and Trinity. Its mission is to fight for the education, income and health of all residents in the community. UWNC raises funds for non-profit agencies and operates two 24/7 human services helplines: 2-1-1 Shasta and 2-1-1 Tehama, collectively known as 2-1-1 NorCal. For more information about United Way of Northern California visit [www.norcalunitedway.org](http://www.norcalunitedway.org).

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