



Town of Palm Beach United Way

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Town of Palm Beach United Way School Supply Drive benefits hundreds of kids in need

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PALM BEACH, Fla. – The Town of Palm Beach United Way is grateful to the Palm Beach community for collectively donating \$18,430 to date, and thousands of school supplies during the 10th Annual School Supply Drive. The drive ran July 25 through August 8 to benefit low-income families in Palm Beach County.

In total, the Town of Palm Beach United Way School Supply Drive collected more than 16,500 individual items, including pencils, pens, crayons, markers, notebooks, erasers, backpacks, folders and binders.

“We are thrilled by the response from the Palm Beach community,” said Bill Tiefel, Board Chairman of the Town of Palm Beach United Way. “Our supporters really stepped up, especially during a difficult financial year for so many families in Palm Beach County.”

Inflation is forcing parents to spend an average of \$661 per child on back-to-school shopping this year, according to a survey from the Deloitte Center for Industry Insights, with school supplies costing 7% more than last year.

Donations to this year’s drive are being distributed to children and youth who receive services at Town of Palm Beach United Way partner agencies Adopt-A-Family, HomeSafe and Milagro Center.

Adopt-A-Family helps low-income families experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless achieve stability and self-sufficiency through housing programs and comprehensive supportive services. The agency also runs an afterschool/summer program for at-risk elementary school students. They currently serve about 700 school-age children.

“School supplies from the Town of Palm Beach United Way collection drive will be a huge help to our families,” said Matthew Constantine, CEO of Adopt-A-Family. “So many families have requested help this year, much more than past years. We are grateful to the United Way for helping us provide this vital need to children in our community.”

HomeSafe provides prevention and intervention programs focused on protecting victims of child abuse and domestic violence and preparing children, young adults and families for safer, more productive lives. They agency currently serves about 150 children.

“In many cases, the kids we serve have been dealt an unfortunate hand,” said Matthew Ladika, CEO of HomeSafe. “We want to make sure they have everything they need to be a success, and that includes school supplies.”

Milagro Center, based in Delray Beach, provides afterschool programs to economically challenged and academically at-risk children in grades K-12. Services include academic tutoring, cultural arts enrichment and mentoring. The agency currently serves about 138 kids.

ONE COMMUNITY. ONE GOAL.

1st Annual Logo Contest

This year's School Supply Drive included a logo contest. Students 18 and under were asked to submit a drawing depicting the Town of Palm Beach United Way's annual School Supply Drive.

The winning design was created by Caroline Ghirardini of West Palm Beach. She attended Palm Beach Day Academy from Kindergarten through 8th grade and will be a senior this fall at Deerfield Academy. Her design will serve as next year's logo, and she will also receive a \$200 Amazon Gift Card.

The School Supply Drive is conducted in collaboration with the Palm Beach Daily News and Palm Beach Fire Rescue.

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