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# Town of Palm Beach United Way School Supply Drive collects thousands of supplies and over \$14,000 for low-income students

## Palm Beach student Harlan Lambert wins 3rd Annual Logo Contest

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 15, 2024

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**PALM BEACH, Fla.** – The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Town of Palm Beach United Way School Supply Drive collected \$14,698 and thousands of school supplies to benefit children in need during the 2024-2025 school year. The drive ran July 28 through August 11.

In total, the School Supply Drive received 16,869 individual items, including pencils, pens, crayons, markers, notebooks, erasers, backpacks, folders and binders.

"So many of our supporters have children and grandchildren, and know how important it is for kids to have school supplies," said Richard Rothschild, Board Chair for Town of Palm Beach United Way. "Hundreds of local underprivileged kids depend on our community to help with their educational supplies. We are immensely grateful for the outpouring of support for this year's drive."

Donations to the drive were distributed to children and youth who receive services at Town of Palm Beach United Way partner agencies Project LIFT, Vita Nova, and YWCA of Palm Beach County. Supplies also benefited students at Lake Worth Middle School, a Title 1 school where the majority of students receive free or reduced-cost breakfast and lunch.

Project LIFT improves the lives of at-risk teens and their families through mental health counseling, mentoring, and vocational skills training. Supplies will benefit young men and women ages 14-19 who attend school in the Glades. More than 85% of students who attend Project LIFT programming live below the federal poverty level, according to Chief Impact Officer Lauren Adrian.

"As one of the poorest communities in Florida, Belle Glade needs support to ensure that children have the supplies they need to succeed in school," Adrian said. "Teens are often overlooked in school supply drives, but just like the little ones, adolescents need school supplies, too. The youth we serve are considered at-risk and face many hardships. It is our goal to remove as many barriers as possible to their success."

Cash donation also will be distributed to Town of Palm Beach United Way partner agencies. Vita Nova will use the grant money to purchase bus passes for students, which are critical for the agency's clients ages 18-25 who are finishing high school, pursuing their GED, or starting college. The agency provides education, housing, and employment services for former foster care and other homeless youth.

"The youth that we serve do not have the means to purchase the supplies that are needed for their education, whether it's for themselves or their children," said Development Coordinator Camila Mayes. "These school supplies and donations will allow our youth to continue their education with their heads held high knowing that they are not lacking with the items that they need. This will allow them to be mentally and physically prepared."

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Logo Contest

For the third consecutive year, the School Supply Drive featured 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, including a brief description of what they created and why.

The winning design was created by Harlan Lambert, 10, of Palm Beach. The African-themed design features a giraffe collecting school supplies.

"I drew this drawing because my friend is visiting from Africa, so I drew a giraffe and we both love reading and school, so I combined our likes and loves to make this drawing," Lambert wrote in her submission letter.

Her design will serve as next year's logo, and she will also receive a \$200 Amazon Gift Card. In total, 7 students participated in the contest. All participants received a \$25 Amazon Gift Card.

The School Supply Drive is conducted in collaboration with Field of Greens, Palm Beach Daily News, and Palm Beach Fire Rescue.

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