

For Immediate Release



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SUPPORT LOCAL STUDENTS THROUGH CRAM THE VAN

Pensacola, Fla. – July 11, 2018

Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties School Districts-approved supply drive, Cram the Van, kicks off this month. Businesses, churches, organizations, and individuals are encouraged to host a school supply drive for local students, while area Wal-Mart Supercenters will host Cram the Van events on July 19, 26, and 28.

Cram the Van, a partnership between Sandy Sansing Dealerships, WEAR ABC 3, WFGX 35, Cat County 98.7, NewsRadio 1620, the Escambia County School District and United Way of Escambia County and United Way of Santa Rosa County, has served the community since 1999 and works to ensure that students in both counties have the tools needed to succeed for the upcoming school year.

In 2017, Escambia County United to distribute over \$42,000 in supplies to 68 area schools, helping 7,488 students in need. More than 40 local businesses held collection drives or donated supplies, and 204 volunteers collectively donated 455 hours of their time to sort, count, and distribute school supplies.

United Way of Santa Rosa raised \$11,828 in addition to the supplies donated throughout the Cram-the-Van process last year. With those donations, and the help of over 200 volunteers, 1,063 backpacks filled with essential school supplies were distributed directly to students in need in Santa Rosa County.

There are several public Cram the Van collection boxes located across the community where individuals can drop off school supplies. Additionally, there a number of volunteer opportunities for those who want to get involved – support is needed with sorting, loading and unloading supplies, and more. If hosting a collection drive or volunteering is not possible, you can still be involved by making a monetary donation or by purchasing supplies at one of the following Cram the Van events.

Santa Rosa County's Cram the Van events will take place on July 19 at the following locations:

Walmart – Tiger Point - Thursday, July 19 – 10:00 am – 6:30 pm

Walmart – Pace -Thursday, July 19 – 10:00 am – 6:30 pm

Escambia County's Cram the Van events will take place on July 26 and July 28 at the following locations:

Walmart – Mobile Highway - Thursday, July 26 – 10:00 am – 6:00 pm

Walmart – Creighton Road - Thursday, July 26 – 10:00 am – 6:00 pm

NEX Pensacola Mall (Hwy. 98) - Thursday, July 26 – 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
(*Site is not open to the general public.*)

Walmart – Blue Angel Parkway - Saturday, July 28 – 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Walmart – Highway 29 - Saturday, July 28 – 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Some of the most requested supplies from the Escambia and Santa Rosa County School Districts are as follows:

- Backpacks (all ages)
- #2 Pencils
- Notebook Paper – college and wide ruled
- Crayola Crayons
- Glue Sticks
- Folders with Pockets & Prongs
- 2” Binders

Monetary donations can be sent to:

United Way of Escambia County
1301 W. Government St.
Pensacola, FL 32502

United Way of Santa Rosa County
6479 Caroline St.
Milton, FL 32570

For more information regarding Cram the Van, please visit
<http://www.unitedwayescambia.org/cramthevan> and www.unitedwaysrc.org/cram-van-2018.

To learn how to get involved:

Escambia County - Contact United Way of Escambia County's Volunteer Center at
volunteer@unitedwayescambia.org or 850-434-3157.

Santa Rosa County – Visit United Way of Santa Rosa's website at www.unitedwaysrc.org/cram-van-2018.

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