

For Immediate Release

Contact: Jonathon Potrzeba
Director of Marketing
United Way of Escambia County
Phone: 850-444-7042 (direct)
Email: jonathon@unitedwayescambia.org



CRAM THE VAN IMPACTS ESCAMBIA AND SANTA ROSA STUDENTS

Pensacola, Fla. – September 6, 2018

For 20 years, Cram the Van has ensured that area students begin each school year with the tools needed to succeed. Through external collection drives at workplaces and organizations, Cram-A-Thon events at area Walmarts, and contributions from generous individuals, our communities have provided invaluable support to Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties' students.

Cram the Van is a collaborative partnership between Cat Country 98.7, the Escambia County School District, Sandy Sansing Automotive, United Way of Escambia County, United Way of Santa Rosa County, and WEAR ABC 3. Each of these partners, supplemented by generous volunteer support, work together to ensure that students in both counties head back to school with the supplies needed to succeed in the upcoming academic year.

This year in Escambia County, over 35,000 items were donated to Cram the Van with a total value of \$62,189. Coupled with \$22,800 in monetary gifts, Cram the Van had an impact of \$84,989 on Escambia County students. In addition, 251 volunteers served a total of 657 hours, valued at \$16,221, in support of our school systems.

The Escambia County School District provided nearly 30 district administrators who supported Cram-A-Thon events and assisted with sorting supplies, in addition to delivering the supplies to schools. United Way of Escambia County coordinated community collection drives, Cram-A-Thons, recruited volunteers, and provided staff support. Sandy Sansing Dealerships contributed over \$17,500 in financial and in-kind donations to Cram the Van events and provided vans, drivers, and volunteers, while WEAR and Cat Country 98.7 provided critical support and media coverage.

United Way of Santa Rosa County had their most successful campaign to-date. They raised over \$12,000 in cash contributions in addition to school supply donations, totaling an estimated \$65,000 worth of backpacks and supplies. Over 1,000 backpacks were filled with grade-appropriate school supplies and given to area students.

###

United Way of Escambia County (UWEC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that fights for the health, education, and financial stability of every citizen in our community. UWEC has operated locally for 94 years with a vision of a community United to create better opportunities for all. By investing in programs, participating in partnerships, and leveraging resources, UWEC works to meet a mission of Uniting our community to improve lives.

-END-