

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 20, 2019**  
**Contact: Mari E. Mellick, CAE, Executive Director**  
**Phone: 651-438-3337**  
**Email: [mari@unitedwayofhastings.org](mailto:mari@unitedwayofhastings.org)**



## **United Way of Hastings 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Stuff the Bus Helps Local Students**

**(HASTINGS, MN)** The United Way of Hastings (UWH) is holding its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Stuff the Bus event August 19-26, 2019, to gather food items for students experiencing food insecurity during the weekends.

Food 4 Kids is an initiative of UWH in partnership with 360 Communities and ISD 200. Some students in Hastings don't have enough to eat. Weekends without school meals can be especially tough. Food 4 Kids provides bags of kid-friendly food to students for the weekend.

"Food 4 Kids helped feed nearly 150 Hastings students, each weekend, during the 2018-2019 school year," said Mari E. Mellick, CAE, Executive Director. "The Stuff the Bus event brings visibility to the need in our community and really helps us replenish our food supply so that we are ready when school begins." In addition to the school year, UWH helped kids this summer with weekend food bags and disseminated anywhere between 10 – 20 bags of food during the summer SPARK program.

The gallon food bags contain 6 food items (2 each of breakfast, lunch and dinner) for the weekend. All items are easy open (pop-top) cans or packages that are simple microwaveable foods that kids can prepare on their own if necessary.

Items needed include: Cereal – Individual Serving Boxes, Cereal Bars, Oatmeal Packets, Juice Boxes, Small Cans of Ravioli or Spaghetti's, Soup, Ramen Noodles, Individual Mac & Cheese Cups, Beef Sticks, Peanut Butter Packets, Any "Kid-Friendly" Food and Gallon Zip-Lock Bags for packing. A recommended shopping list can be found at:

<http://www.unitedwayofhastings.org/documents/RequestedItemDonationList.pdf>.

Help students in our community and "Stuff the Bus" this week by donating food or cash at local stores – Coborn's, Cub Foods and Walmart. Hastings ISD#200 buses provided by Hastings Bus Company are located at each store. Look for signs, displays and donation bins at the stores. By donating, you are helping students arrive at school on Monday mornings nourished and ready to learn. You may also donate online at [www.unitedwayofhastings.org](http://www.unitedwayofhastings.org) or by calling 651-438-3337.

The UWH has been the Heart of Hastings for 55 years working as an independent United Way serving Hastings and the surrounding rural communities within Independent School District #200. Its mission is to build partnerships to improve the lives of people in our community. Initiatives funded by UWH are all local agencies and programs – supporting Education, Health and Financial Empowerment. Donations are accepted year-round. For more information about the UWH, visit [www.unitedwayofhastings.org](http://www.unitedwayofhastings.org).

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113 2<sup>nd</sup> St E, Ste 102, PO Box 353, Hastings, MN 55033 (651) 438-3337 [www.unitedwayofhastings.org](http://www.unitedwayofhastings.org)