

# Donors fill bins at HEBs with needed school supplies

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Cristi Williams, a CIS board member, looks through a bin filled with donated school supplies while volunteering Friday at the 17th annual Stuff the Bus event at HEB on Walnut Avenue.

**NEW BRAUNFELS** — New Braunfels appeared to be as giving as ever Friday for area students in need of school supplies, as folders, binders, pens, and pencils filled plastic bins and covered donation tables at New Braunfels HEB grocery stores.

Once again, volunteers with Communities In Schools of South Central Texas said, the Comal County community showed up in a big way to support its children and teens during the organization's 17th annual Stuff the Bus campaign.

CIS is a nonprofit organization that partners with local businesses and community organizations to serve at-risk students.

"It's been a great day," said CIS board of directors president Frances Soechting said. "I've been on the board for three years ... and even during the recession — every year — we get more donations than the year before. It just shows how strong the community supports its students."

Throughout the day, CIS volunteers were stationed at the Walnut Street and Hwy. 46 HEBs in New Braunfels, Bulverde HEB and Schertz HEB. School buses draped with "Stuff the Bus" banners could be found in front of each store.

By Friday afternoon, Soechting said CIS already collected several tubs full of supplies.

"It's been a really good showing all day," she said. "We've gotten a lot of support again this year."

CIS mentor coordinator Kyle Jankowski said he was certainly impressed with the donations received.

“It’s been a really great day here, so far,” he said. “We’ve have quite a few people and companies stop by with boxes of supplies.”

One such company that swung by with a tote full of supplies was WellMed Medical Group of New Braunfels. Registered nurse Luis Ortega said it is important to WellMed’s employees and patients that area students have all the tools they need to succeed academically.

“We always like reaching out to the community and helping out with things like this,” Ortega said. “Our staff and patients all pitched in to help.”

Those who missed their chance to drop off supplies can still do so at the CIS office, 161 S. Castell Ave., New Braunfels.

Needed supplies include 1- and 2-inch binders; large and small backpacks; wide-ruled composition books; low-odor dry erase markers; plastic and regular folders with brads and pockets; binder divider tabs; washable markers; Fiskar brand scissors; colored pencils; pencil bags or boxes; water colors; construction paper; and manila paper.

Collected items will be distributed by CIS to school district campuses and made available to any student who needs them throughout the year.

Throughout August, customers also can make donations at HEB check-out lanes through tear-off coupons. Donations made at the four HEBs will go directly to CIS.

Call CIS at (830) 620-4247 for more information.