



NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

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Write Start Project Launches in Support of Local Teachers and Students Community-wide project kickoff coincides with national United Way Day of Action

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS (June 21, 2018) – The United Way [Write Start Project](#), kicking off on Thursday, June 21, is a back-to-school initiative targeting those who make a difference in the lives of our children, the individuals who spend their days ensuring that our students succeed in the school ... teachers.

The community-wide project will fill the gap and cost of teachers' supplies by providing much needed school supplies to teachers in 111 San Antonio schools in eight school districts, impacting over 5,000 area teachers. Participating school districts include: Southside ISD, East Central ISD, San Antonio ISD, Edgewood ISD, South San ISD, Harlandale ISD, Southwest ISD, and Northside ISD.

Donations of school supplies will be accepted from June 21 – July 28 during business hours at United Way offices at 700 S. Alamo St., San Antonio, Texas, 78205; and at [Jefferson Dental & Smile Center locations and Jefferson Dental Clinics](#).

“United Way and our partners are proud to create awareness for this important school supply initiative,” said Brandyn Moore-Rodriguez, United Way Vice President of Community Relations and Volunteer Initiatives. “From our year-round work with students, teachers and parents, we understand firsthand how the lack of necessary school supplies can impact a teacher’s ability to do the basic fundamentals of teaching.”

The wish list of supplies includes: crayons (16 and 24 count), composition notebooks (wide rule), Clorox wipes, dry erase markers, glue sticks, hand sanitizer, highlighters, notebook paper (wide rule), #2 pencils, pens (blue, black, and red), Post-it Notes, Sharpie markers, spiral notebooks (wide rule), and Zip Lock bags. Project supporters may also text “WriteStart” to 71777 to donate.

Volunteers are needed for a Back to School Kit Assembly Party on Saturday, August 4, 2018. Visit www.volunteersanantonio.org to learn about opportunities and to register.

Over 99 percent of teachers dip into their own pocketbooks to provide supplies and instructional materials for their students, according to the most recent [survey](#) of the National School Supply and Equipment Association (NSSEA).

Across the United States, public school teachers during the 2012-2013 school year spent \$1.6 billion of their own money on school supplies and instructional materials, according to the National School Supply and Equipment Association. On average, teachers surveyed said they spent a total of \$268 on school supplies in the 2012-2013 school year, \$491 on instructional materials and an additional \$186 on other classroom supplies for an average total of \$945 on materials for their classrooms during the last school year.

In San Antonio, United Way focuses on improving early care and education for children, helping students succeed in school, strengthening individuals and families, and providing safety net emergency and disaster services. The **Write Start Project** is aligned with United Way's work to support young children and successful students.

Parent engagement is an ongoing process that increases active participation, communication, and collaboration between parents, schools, and communities with the goal of educating the whole child to ensure students achievement and success. Parent engagement refers to all activities that parents do to help their children succeed. It includes everything from ensuring that kids are prepared to go to school every day, to attending parent meetings, conferences, and events, to volunteering their time and talents at their child's school. It is vital to the student's success.

The first parent rooms opened in San Antonio Independent School District in 2006. During the each school year, parent volunteers log thousands of hours in home visits, parent leadership development training, and campus support.

United Way's [ReadyKidSA](#) Coalition launched the Children's Agenda for Bexar County in April 2017. It was developed in collaboration with local early childhood education professionals, child development advocates, health professionals, community members, parents, and civic leaders. The aim of the agenda is to set forth a far-reaching framework to better support local families to grow *healthy, happy, and ready children*.

The **Write Start Project** kickoff coincides with [United Way Day of Action](#), when communities around the world come together to harness the volunteer spirit and improve the conditions in which they live.

Sponsors of the **Write Start Project** include: Citi, Firstmark Credit Union, H-E-B, Jefferson Dental Care, SWRI, SA300, and United Way.

About [United Way](#): United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County brings people together to address challenging community issues. In collaboration with its nonprofit partners, it focuses on assuring children a safe and healthy start in life, helping students stay in school and graduate, strengthening individuals and families, and providing safety net services during times of disasters and emergencies.

About [San Antonio Tricentennial](#): In 2018, San Antonio and Bexar County will commemorate its 300th anniversary: a rare, historic event that will be remembered for generations. The Tricentennial Commission, a public nonprofit, leads the way in celebrating and commemorating our 300 years by developing a year of educational, artistic, and entertaining events. As San Antonio takes the world's stage, key initiatives include: History and Education, Arts and Culture, Community Service, and Commemorative Week. The yearlong commemoration will celebrate our memorable past and propel us into our equally remarkable future. You are invited to join our community and be a part of the next chapter in San Antonio's legendary story. Visit www.sanantonio300.org for more information.

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