



Serving Whitley &  
Kosciusko Counties

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## United Way's Big Give Delivers for Kids

**Warsaw** – United Way of Whitley & Kosciusko Counties' Big Give will deliver more than 2,500 bags of school supplies on August 4, 2021. Driven by more than 50 companies, churches and individuals, the United Way initiative will produce 100+ bags of school supplies to all twenty elementary schools in the region. United Way is committed to making sure every student begins school ready to succeed.

"The Big Give is one of my favorite Back to School events!" said Aimee Lunsford, Principal at Lincoln Elementary in Warsaw. "I love that the United Way works so hard to level the playing field for all of our students right out of the gate, providing school supplies for any student that is in need."

The project enables volunteers to make a personal connection with a child. Through a grant from the Zimmer Biomet Foundation, United Way was able to secure 2,500 drawstring bags. Each bag was tagged with a supply list for a grade-level. Volunteers get a chance to pick just the right items to fill the bag, often putting in more supplies in than are required. The bags are then delivered directly to the schools.

"United Way made a choice with Big Give to trust our school partners," said Darren Bickel, United Way president. "Schools know their families. The bags are put in the hands of principals, teachers and guidance counselors – the wisest people I know when it comes to meeting the needs of students."

Each school will distribute the bags in their own fashion, making sure no child has the awkward moment of being unprepared for their first day of school. Big Give began in 2018 and has collected thousands of items for children across the region.

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United Way of Whitley & Kosciusko Counties was formed in January 2021 when the two organizations came together to better meet the challenges of the region. United

United Way of Whitley & Kosciusko Counties

PO Box 923 Warsaw, Indiana 46581 • (574) 269-2592

[www.uwwk.org](http://www.uwwk.org)



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Way has a strong focus on children, particularly birth-6<sup>th</sup> grade, helping them overcome challenges and succeed in life.

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