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SunLine Transit Agency to Assist Local Students by Packing the Bus with School Supplies

(Thousand Palms, CA) August 1, 2014 • On Saturday, August 9, 2014, SunLine Transit Agency will be holding a drive to assist students in the Coachella Valley who need backpacks and school supplies. The "Pack the Bus" Backpack and School Supply Drive is designed to offer struggling families some relief from the high costs of backto-school shopping, give each child the much-needed boost of confidence to succeed in the coming school year, and to help teachers equip their classrooms for a year of learning.

The Salvation Army will be the recipient of SunLine's "Pack the Bus" Backpack and School Supply Drive and will be distributing to many local disadvantaged children throughout the Valley by and reaching out to neighborhood organizations. "We very much appreciate organizations such as SunLine Transit Agency who join together to assist in fulfilling a need in our local community," said Lieutenant Sean Kelsey, Corps Officer for The Salvation Army.

SunLine General Manager, Lauren Skiver states, "SunLine continues to support the youth in our community. With the high costs associated with educating our youth, we are happy to assist those less fortunate by coordinating with local non-profit organizations to provide an opportunity to ease the burden."

Persons who wish to help students unable to afford supplies should come to the **Walmart • 34500 Monterey Avenue**, **Palm Desert** lot from **9:00 A.M. until 7:00 P.M. on Saturday**, **August 09**, **2014**.

Members of SunLine's management team including General Manager, Lauren Skiver, staff, volunteers from The Salvation Army and the Rancho Mirage High School cheerleaders will be onsite to greet donors, assist with drop-offs and thank the community for their generosity.

More information about SunLine can be found at <u>sunline.org</u>. • Media inquiries contact Norma Stevens at 760-250-5366 or e-mail <u>nstevens@sunline.org</u>.

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SunLine Transit Agency is a joint powers authority formed in 1977 to operate the Coachella Valley's public transportation system. SunLine offers fixed route bus service and curb-to-curb paratransit for the mobility impaired. Its fixed route and paratransit vehicles travel more than 4 million miles per year, covering over 619 bus stops located throughout a 1,120 mile-service area, carrying approximately 4.82 million riders. SunLine Services Group regulates three taxi franchises who provide taxi services throughout the Valley. SunFuels alternative fueling station offers compressed natural gas and hydrogen for SunLine and the public 24 hours a day, seven days a week. To learn more, please visit sunline.org.