

FEATURED TOP STORY SPOTLIGHT

# Volunteers rally to support ‘Kids With Packs’ at Nemer Ford

Lisa Reider Aug 23, 2025 0

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Over 75 volunteers came out to Nemer Ford on August 21 to stuff backpacks with school supplies as part of Tri-County United Way's Kids With Packs program. Lisa Reider



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**Q**UEENSBURY – On Thursday, August 21, Nemer Ford was alive with excitement as over 75 volunteers came to help stuff over 750 backpacks with school supplies ahead of the upcoming school year.

The annual “Kids With Packs” event is a Tri-County United Way initiative that helps provide local kids in need with vital supplies. Each backpack is filled with the following: one composition notebook, one spiral notebook, one pencil box, two folders, one box of crayons, two highlighters, 10 pencils, one glue stick, two block erasers (or five more pencils), one scissor, one ruler, and one set of headphones.

According to United Way, this year’s turnout was the largest in the program’s 13-year history. Volunteers came from organizations such as Travelers Insurance, Arrow Bank, Pioneer Bank, Adirondack Thunder, and others. Many could be seen packing two backpacks at a time as they made their way around the tables of supplies. Even Thunder mascot Gunner got in on the fun, handing out rulers and high-fives.

Some volunteers also brought their kids to help with the task. When asked what inspired her to come out to help, volunteer Kate Allen motioned to son who was standing by her side, adding, “I absolutely love it and I think is an amazing cause. I honestly, I’ve work for Travelers [Insurance] for quite some time and I didn’t even know about this, so I’ll be doing it every year for sure.”

Volunteer Hannah Mercer echoed that sentiment: “I work with Arrow Bank and I really appreciate the work that United Way does for our community so I’m happy to help put [together] backpacks for students that need them. I think it’s an awesome cause.”

Kids With Packs is a program focused on supporting families considered “Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed” (ALICE). According to United Way, these households often earn too much to qualify for public assistance, yet not enough to afford basic essentials.

United Way’s United for ALICE research initiative calculates real-life survival budgets based on regional data and has determined that a single adult may need to earn \$25,000 to \$35,000/year to meet basic needs and a family of four often needs \$60,000 to \$85,000/year, depending on local costs.

Each backpack goes to an ALICE-designated family and is distributed in late August by each school’s superintendent. United Way also provides hygiene bags to ALICE-designated students that are distributed by each school’s nurses. About 21 local schools in the tri-county area will receive the backpacks.

This initiative is made possible through the support of several organizations and community leaders, including Tri-County United Way’s lead partners: Nemer Motor Group, Charles R. Wood Foundation, Lions Club International, Lions Club of Glens Falls, Target, Arrow Bank, Checon, Flomatic Valves, Glens Falls Symphony, JMZ Architects and Planners, Pioneer Charitable Foundation, The Post Star, The Hyde Collection, Amazon Granville Distribution Center, and Travelers Insurance Agency, as well as individual donors.

For more information, visit [tricountyunitedway.org](https://www.tricountyunitedway.org).