

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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**DATE:** May 22, 2020

## **Assistance League of North Inland County Joined EUHSD to Support Graduating Seniors in Foster Youth and/or Experiencing Homelessness**

On Wednesday and Thursday this week, a team from the Assistance League of North Inland County joined up with EUHSD Superintendent Dr. Staffieri and district office administrators to distribute 64 backpacks to graduating seniors who are foster youth and/or experiencing homelessness as a part of Operation Duffel Bag. Bags were stocked with items such as a blanket throw, bath towels, and Walmart gift cards. "It feels great to be making a difference in the lives of our students as they launch into life beyond high school," stated Rich Watkins, Director of Pupil Services.

Students received the following communication in English and Spanish inviting them to this special distribution:

"Congratulations on being part of the EUHSD graduating class of 2020! We hope that you are proud of this great accomplishment and are looking forward to your next exciting journey.

You have been selected to receive a graduation gift from the Assistance League of North Inland County. This generous gift includes a duffel bag/backpack, blanket throw, bath towels, and Walmart gift cards (valued at \$100-125). The safest and easiest way to get these gifts to you is to invite you to the food distribution events on May 20, 21, and 26 at the school sites listed below. A table will be set-up with EUHSD staff to provide you with the donated gifts."

This year the Assistance League of North Inland County has provided the following donations to support EUHSD students:

### Operation School Bell

179 students received \$150 Kohl's Gift Cards valued at \$26,850.

<https://www.assistanceleague.org/inland-north-county/programs/operation-school-bell/>

### Operation Duffel Bag

The league provided 64 graduating Homeless and Foster seniors with large backpacks that included a blanket, bath towels, toiletries, and Walmart gift cards (\$125). The gift cards alone are valued at \$8,000.

<https://www.assistanceleague.org/inland-north-county/operation-duffel-bags/>

## Scholarships

The league also sponsors scholarships for EUHSD graduates.

<https://www.assistanceleague.org/inland-north-county/scholarships/>



*In the picture from left to right:*

Anne Staffieri, EUHSD Superintendent, Kim Bodie, EUHSD Social Worker, Marolyn Miglin, Assistance League, Linda Zullinger, Assistance League, Diana Chambers, Assistance League President, Sandy Lehberg, Rich Watkins, EUHSD Director of Pupil Services.