

**For Immediate Release**

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## **LDS Missionaries Work with Navarre High School JROTC in “Cram the Van” Project**

**Cram the Van**, the school district approved supply drive for needy students, has been active since the first of June for the 2017-2018 school year. Publicized by United Way and WEAR TV, community members have been providing schools with necessary items to help teachers and students have the supplies they need to have a successful learning experience for the last 18 years.

According to the United Way [website](#), in 2016, Escambia community members distributed \$78,000 in supplies to 61 area schools. In [Santa Rosa County](#) \$40,000 in supplies were provided to 3,500 students.

Thursday July 27, 2017, was the kick off day for Santa Rosa County. Missionaries from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints assigned to Pensacola, Perdido, and Navarre were on hand during the sweltering day to pass out wish lists to shoppers frequenting the Tiger Point Walmart shopping center.

In the morning, Elders Ramberg and Turner from Pensacola and Elders Burch and Facer from Perdido greeted shoppers and encouraged them to consider adding some of the student’s needs to their purchases. In the afternoon, Elder and Sister Missionaries from Navarre were on hand to assist the Navarre High School Navy JROTC accept contributions.

The Navy JROTC program, in its seventeenth year at Navarre High School, has ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in the Florida Area 8 district three years in a row. The cadet program offers opportunities for developing self-confidence, respect for authority, citizenship and leadership skills. In addition, cadets enhance physical and mental skills and develop lasting friendships as they work together to provide thousands of community service hours.

Young men and women members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints volunteer 2 years for men and 18 months for women to serve anywhere in the world as full-time missionaries. They work within their assigned community to build relationships with people who are seeking to know the true meaning of life. As a part of their assignment, missionaries work within the community as volunteers helping organizations and member families in service projects.

“We had a great time being able to connect with and invite people to donate to a great cause,” said Elder Turner. “If Christ was on earth, he would be out helping people.”

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*name of the Church in the first reference. For more information on the use of the name of the Church, go to our online [style guide](#)*

Photos by Billie Nicholson:

Img\_5009 – L to R: Elder Wagstaff, Sisters Jackson and Sant with Navarre HS Navy JROTC cadet, Ava Beaugrand and Elder Waddell greet shoppers.

Img\_5023 – L to R: Elders Bushman & Williams; JROTC cadets: Bryant, Morales, Williams-Bunn and Taber accepted donations.

Img\_5022 – Cadets Fuentes and Alderfer manned the van sorting supplies.

