

Sun Valley Division 15 Lightens the Load for School Kids

By LISA HUYNH and ERIC RAPP

(August 22, 2002) East Valley Division 15 employees are reaching out to the community in a big way – changing the lives of at least 36 children.

Students at nearby Fenton Avenue Charter School have no lockers, so they have to carry all their books with them at all times. This presents a challenge especially for the younger children, because the books are so heavy.

Transit Operations Supervisor Nita Northington, who coordinated the project, came up with the idea to buy the children rolling backpacks.

Northington says the original plan was to receive enough donations to buy rolling backpacks for 18 children, ages 5 to 12, at about \$55 per backpack.

Employees rose to the occasion

East Valley Division 15 employees, including operators, mechanics and service attendance and sector staff, however, rose to the occasion and raised a total of \$1,980.

"The response was so good that we were able to buy backpacks for 36 kids," says Northington.

On Friday, General Manager David Armijo and Transportation Manager Karl Downs will present the new backpacks to the eager children

The children will be picked up from Fenton Avenue Charter School and driven to East Valley Division 15. The kids will be given a short tour of the division, including a trip through the automatic bus washer, and then be treated to a lunch of pizza, punch and ice cream.

A Metro bus will then take the children back to their school in the late afternoon.

[Back to Bulletin Board](#)