

# Inland Empire UPS Store locations donate \$13,000 worth of books to Boys & Girls Clubs



Isabella Borunda, 8, left, Giovanna Smith, 8, and Lyanna Rojas, 8, all of Redlands, share a laugh while looking through one of the new books during a group photo as local UPS Stores representatives present \$13,000 worth of educational books to area Boys & Girls Clubs during a presentation at the Boys & Girls Club in Redlands Wednesday. JENNIFER CAPPUCCIO MAHER — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

By **Kristina Hernandez**, *Redlands Daily Facts*

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**REDLANDS** -- A new partnership between The UPS Stores in the Inland Empire and Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Redlands-Riverside will put hundreds of books within reach of children in need.

On Wednesday, representatives from area UPS Stores gathered at the Hansberger Clubhouse in Redlands to meet with Boys & Girls Clubs representatives and view dozens of boxes carrying \$13,000 worth of books suitable for all ages.

UPS Stores raised money for the books through the Toys for Tots Literacy program, which encouraged customers to donate whatever they could toward the cause. Since its

founding in 2008, the program has raised more than \$3.75 million to put books in the hands of children in need, said coordinator Jacki Espino, a franchise operator of four UPS Stores in the Inland Empire.

“Between our four stores we raised almost \$1,000,” she said. “And I think we’re going to make this a permanent alliance with Boys & Girls Clubs because they are so open to it and they need the help.”

Books will not only find a home at Boys & Girls Club locations in the Redlands and Riverside area, but other clubhouses in San Bernardino, Fontana, Barstow, Coachella Valley, Palm Springs, Cathedral City, Perris, Temecula, Yucca Valley, Banning and Beaumont. Representatives from each clubhouse were invited to Redlands to pick up boxes filled with new books. Boxes were organized by clubhouse and grade levels.

Wednesday’s visit with UPS Stores representatives included meet-and-greets with Hansberger Clubhouse members, as well as tours of the Clay Street facility and photo opportunities.

Mark Davis, vice president of Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Redlands-Riverside, called the donation a wonderful gift to the entire community.

“This is fantastic,” he said. “It offered us a scholastic opportunity for kids to be able to read, get books and help academically. I just want to thank UPS for their donation and support of Boys & Girls Clubs.”