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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Gaia Herbs Partners with United Way to Donate Hand Sanitizer to 13,500 K-12 Students in Henderson County School District

Leading Natural Herbal Products Brand Provides Local School District with \$65,000 Worth of Hand Sanitizer to Help Students Prepare for Return to In-Person Classes

BREVARD, N.C. (Sept. 21, 2020) – [Gaia Herbs](#), a leading natural herbal products brand in the United States, has partnered with [United Way of Henderson County](#) to donate 13,500 2 oz. bottles of CDC-approved hand sanitizer to students in the Henderson County Public Schools District (HCPS). The hand sanitizers will be included in a health and safety kit from United Way, which will also include masks and public health literature from Pardee UNC Health Care. Every HCPS student across the 23 schools in the Henderson County School District will receive their health and safety kit during the first weeks of in-person classes in October.

This hand sanitizer donation follows several local community donations from Gaia Herbs including recent donations of over 220 gallons and 1,500 individual 2 oz. hand sanitizer spray bottles to 17 different local organizations supporting the efforts of healthcare workers, farmworkers, government officials, first responders, and other frontline employees.

“The work United Way has been spearheading these last few months – from fundraising for community organizations to helping people get the assistance they need – has truly been inspiring,” said Angela McElwee, President and CEO of Gaia Herbs. “The decision to partner with United Way to help give back to the local community and our students this fall semester was an easy one for us. As a Certified B Corporation®, Gaia Herbs is committed to using business as a force for good and contributing to a better world through our actions. This hand sanitizer donation represented an additional way to use our capabilities and expertise to make a positive impact and to help protect the health of our local students and teachers in Henderson County as they are transitioning back to in-person school.”

United Way is asking the Henderson County community to join in this effort as part of their fifth annual Day of Action. Volunteers from across the community – including Gaia Herbs employees – have already committed to assembling the kits. Donations of \$5 per kit are needed to complete the purchase of face coverings for all HCPS students. “We are so tremendously grateful for the contribution from Gaia Herbs, which – along with sponsorship from Pardee UNC Healthcare – is allowing this project to come together quickly to meet this immediate need,” said Denise Long, Executive Director of United Way of Henderson County. “Now we’re asking Henderson County residents to give \$5 or more to support the remaining pieces that we need for the kits,” added Long. Residents can donate to support the kits by texting the word “ACTION” to 71777, or by visiting www.liveunitedhc.org.

Gaia Herbs developed the lemon antiseptic hand sanitizer as a way for people to help reduce bacteria and keep their hands clean when soap and water are not available. The hand sanitizer spray has a light, pleasant lemon scent and is made with 80% organic alcohol, which exceeds the CDC recommendations for hand sanitizer. Like all of Gaia Herbs products, the hand sanitizers are brought to life without the use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, or genetically modified ingredients.

In addition to donating the hand sanitizer, Gaia Herbs is holding two volunteer days for employees to help assemble the back to school health and safety kits on Thursday, September 24 at its Mills River, N.C. location and on Friday, September 25 at its Brevard, N.C. facility. Gaia Herbs’ employees will be able to safely socially distance as they prepare the health and safety kits for the students and teachers.

All of Gaia Herbs products are sold through natural and independently owned health food stores across the nation as well as through gaiaherbs.com and other trusted online retail sites. To find a store near you, visit gaiaherbs.com/stores.

About Gaia Herbs

For over thirty years, Gaia Herbs has been connecting people, plants, and planet to create healing. Today, Gaia Herbs is a leading herbal brand in North America committed to creating the highest quality health and wellness products assured for purity, potency, and integrity. The company offers more than 200 liquid extracts, functional powders, gummies, teas, and patented Liquid Phyto-Caps®. From Gaia Herbs' Certified Organic farm nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains, the company uses regenerative agriculture methods to grow more than three million plants each year and harvests and extracts the herbs at just the right time, when their phytochemicals are at their peak. Gaia Herbs introduced the world's first herb traceability program, meetyourherbs.com, which allows it to share complete transparency around its herbs and ingredients. The company is proud to be a [Certified B Corporation®](#) using business as a force for good™. Through the [Gaia Herbs Roots Initiative](#), the company champions environmental and social sustainability on its farm and around the world. Learn more at gaiaherbs.com and join in the conversation on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Pinterest](#) and [Instagram](#).

About United Way of Henderson County

United Way is advancing the common good by creating opportunities for a better life in Henderson County. If you would like more information or would like to make a donation, contact United Way of Henderson County at PO Box 487, Hendersonville, NC 28793, 828-692-1636, or visit online at liveunitedhc.org. You can also find UWHC on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

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