



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Merrimack Valley Credit Union and Bridgewater Credit Union Surprise Community Members with Random Acts of Kindness**

*Credit unions spent nearly \$6,000 to perform good deeds for community members*

**Lawrence, Mass.** (September 24, 2019) – Over the course of one week in September, employees from Merrimack Valley Credit Union (MVCU) and Bridgewater Credit Union (BCU), a division of MVCU, surprised community members in both regions with random acts of kindness. The credit unions spent nearly \$6,000 performing good deeds for strangers, including picking up the tab for breakfast, groceries and student lunch debt, providing lunch for first responders, and treating school teachers, nonprofits, senior living facilities and daycares to gifts and sweets. Together, more than 40 MVCU and BCU employees logged nearly 50 hours impacting hundreds of community members.

“Everyone at Merrimack Valley Credit Union values being part of caring and vibrant communities,” said John Howard, President & CEO of Merrimack Valley Credit Union. “That’s why we dedicated a week of our time to helping our fellow community members with random acts of kindness. We aim to give as much back to the communities as we gain; this is just one of the many ways we do just that.”

Bridgewater Credit Union and Merrimack Valley Credit Union employees spent several weeks brainstorming activities and ways to help surprise members of their communities with random acts of kindness. The group engaged a wide variety of organizations in many locations throughout both regions.

Merrimack Valley Credit Union employees:

- Treated people to breakfast at Perfecto's Café in Andover, Mass. and Eli's Place Breakfast Diner in Lawrence, Mass.
- Delivered flowers to nurses at Holy Family Hospital in Methuen, Mass.
- Gifted flowers to strangers at Seabrook Commons in Seabrook, N.H.
- Purchased groceries at Market Basket locations in North Andover and Methuen, Mass.
- Donated warm clothing to the Lazarus House Ministries Inc., in Lawrence, Mass.
- Delivered breakfast and lunch to the Police and Fire stations in North Andover and Lawrence, Mass.
- Shared treats with the staff at Methuen, Mass., elementary schools
- Gifted baskets to new moms at Lawrence General Hospital in Lawrence, Mass.
- Paid off the student lunch debt at Seabrook Elementary School in Seabrook, N.H.
- Gifted bags of essentials to the Wood Mill Center in Lawrence, Mass.
- Provided gift cards to the hardworking staff of the Boys & Girls Club in Haverhill, Mass.

Bridgewater Credit Union team members:

- Purchased coffee for local residents
- Delivered flowers to nurses at Good Samaritans Hospital in Brockton, Mass. and Morton Hospital in Taunton, Mass.
- Donated pet supplies to Lakeville Animal Shelter in Lakeville, Mass. and Animal Rescue League of Carver, Mass.
- Paid for groceries at Market Basket locations in West Bridgewater and Brockton, Mass.
- Provided lunch for the Police Departments and the Fire Departments in Bridgewater, Fairhaven, Plymouth and Quincy, Mass.
- Delivered baskets to new mothers in the Healthy Beginnings program at Brockton Hospital in Brockton, Mass.
- Donated toys and supplies to Fairhaven Learning House in Fairhaven, Mass. and Ashley's Day Care in Mattapoisett, Mass.
- Shared treats with the teachers and staff of the Mary E. Flaherty School in Braintree, Mass. and the Life Care Center in Raynham, Mass.
- Provided gift cards to the dedicated staff of the Boys & Girls Club in New Bedford, Mass.
- Donated warm clothing to Father Bill's & Mainspring Homeless Shelter in Brockton, Mass.

“I’m very proud of our team members who went out of their way to show kindness to strangers,” Howard said. “Our employees, and their passion for helping others, serve as the backbone of our organization. We would not be who we are without their spirit for generosity and compassion.”

In 2018, Bridgewater Credit Union began its now annual tradition of dedicating a week to performing random acts of kindness in the community. Once it merged with Merrimack Valley Credit Union in February 2019, both organizations embraced this initiative, working to make a difference in their communities.



**Caption:** Over the course of one week in September, employees from Merrimack Valley Credit Union (MVCU) and Bridgewater Credit Union (BCU), a division of MVCU, surprised community members in both regions with random acts of kindness. The credit unions spent nearly \$6,000 performing good deeds for strangers. Together, more than 40 MVCU and BCU employees logged nearly 50 hours impacting hundreds of community members. Pictured above, Amanda Prew, Mortgage Loan Originator, BCU (center), poses with two police officers after providing lunch for the team.



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both regions with random acts of kindness. Together, more than 40 MVCU and BCU employees logged nearly 50 hours impacting hundreds of community members. Pictured above (L-R), Jackie LaPorte, Financial Services Representative, MVCU, and Tracy Dunbar, Secretary at Timony Grammar School in Methuen, pose with the treats for staff and teachers.



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### **About Merrimack Valley Credit Union**

Merrimack Valley Credit Union (MVCU) is a state-chartered community credit union with \$1 billion in assets. MVCU serves anyone who lives, works, volunteers, or attends school in the Merrimack Valley region, and through its Bridgewater Credit Union division, Barnstable, Bristol, Norfolk or Plymouth counties. MVCU offers a wide range of savings and loan products to meet the financial needs of its members, and has 10 branch locations in Bridgewater, Fairhaven, Haverhill, Lawrence, Methuen, North Andover, Plymouth, and Quincy, Mass., and Plaistow and Seabrook, N.H.

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