



PRESS RELEASE

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Merrimack Valley Credit Union and Bridgewater Credit Union Hosting Shoe Drive

Credit union will donate \$5 for every pair of shoes collected

Lawrence, Mass. (March 15, 2019) – [Merrimack Valley Credit Union](#) (MVCU) and [Bridgewater Credit Union](#) (BCU), a division of Merrimack Valley Credit Union, are hosting shoe drives at their local branches to collect donations for Lazarus House Ministries Inc. in Lawrence and GiftsToGive in Acushnet. The organization will also donate \$5 to the nonprofits for every pair of gently used shoes collected, up to \$10,000.

“When preparing for our recent merger, we wanted to find a way to give back to the community, a value we share with our members,” said John J. Howard, President and CEO of Merrimack Valley Credit Union. “While many in our community regularly donate clothing to shelters and other organizations, some may not realize shoes can be donated too. Collecting gently used shoes families no longer need is a great way to rally our members and residents to help. Our matching donation will allow Lazarus House Ministries and GiftsToGive to benefit even more from the community’s generosity.”

Shoes donated at MVCU branches in Haverhill, Lawrence, Methuen and North Andover, Mass. and Plaistow and Seabrook, N.H. will be delivered to [Lazarus House Ministries](#). The organization provides physical, emotional and spiritual shelter from life’s hardships, offering guests the opportunity to get back on their feet. Lazarus House Ministries helps in many ways, including providing food through its soup kitchen and pantry, housing through its emergency shelter, temporary shelter and transitional housing

programs, and work preparation training, giving guests a foundation from which to build on their independence. The organization will make the donated shoes available through its thrift stores, which provide clothing and goods at reduced rates for those who struggle to make ends meet. For those who cannot afford to purchase items, or those transitioning from homelessness, the items are free.

“Merrimack Valley Credit Union’s continued support over the last 10 years has allowed us to expand our services and to help open doors out of poverty,” said Kelley Granahan, Director of Development, Lazarus House Ministries. “We’re proud to have partners like MVCU to help us meet the growing need in our community. The collected shoes and matching donation will help us keep more of our guests warm, fed and on the road to self-sufficiency.”

Shoes donated at BCU branches in Bridgewater, Fairhaven, Plymouth and Quincy will benefit [GiftsToGive](#), an organization that relies on the help of thousands of local kids to transform donated clothes, toys and books into thousands of individual gift packages. Hundreds of local agencies and caregivers can request these gift packages for local homeless and at-risk children. Donated kids’ shoes will be used for gift packages, while adult shoes will be available in the organization’s thrift store, which helps offset its operating costs.

“With more than 50,000 South Coast children living in poverty, the need for donations is overwhelming,” said Jim Stevens, CEO and Founder, GiftsToGive. “We’re grateful Bridgewater Credit Union is stepping up to collect shoes so we can create gift packages for kids in need. BCU is a bright and shining light in our community.”

Branches will welcome gently used shoes, including sneakers, sandals, boots and dress shoes for men, women and children, through Tuesday, April 30. MVCU and BCU ask that community members group pairs of shoes together when preparing their donations, so pairs don’t get separated. This can be done by tying the two shoe laces together, tying string around the pair, or putting pairs in bags. Donation receipts will be available upon request at all branch locations.

For more information about Merrimack Valley Credit Union and Bridgewater Credit Union, visit <https://www.mvcu.com> or <https://www.bridgewatercu.com>.



Photo Caption: Merrimack Valley Credit Union (MVCU) and Bridgewater Credit Union (BCU), a division of Merrimack Valley Credit Union, are hosting shoe drives at their local branches to collect donations for Lazarus House Ministries Inc. in Lawrence and GiftsToGive in Acushnet. The organization will also donate \$5 to the nonprofits for every pair of gently used shoes collected, up to \$10,000. Pictured above, Ivana Caminero, call center representative, donates a pair of shoes at MVCU headquarters in Lawrence.

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 or 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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