



Creating Cooperative Power

NEWS

For Immediate Release

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Credit Unions in Western Mass. Help Kids in Need Find their Sweet Dreams

Oct. 18, 2017 (Marlborough, Mass.) — Credit unions in Western Massachusetts are giving children growing up in poverty a chance at a good night's sleep as they continue to deliver 60 beds with \$14,500 they raised for "A Bed for Every Child." Twenty of the 60 beds delivered Monday, Oct. 16 will go to kids throughout the Springfield (Mass.) Public School system.

"A Bed for Every Child" is a program of the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless.

Credit union CEOs welcomed local dignitaries for the arrival of the beds, including Springfield Mayor Domenic Sarno, Springfield Public Schools Chief Communications Officer Azell Cavaan and Stephanie Sanabria, City Connects coordinator, who distributes the beds. Sarno expressed his appreciation to the local credit unions for supporting such a worthy cause.

"I thank all the credit unions that participated and raised money for the 60 beds for school-age children in our communities," he said.

Credit union CEOs and representatives attending the event unloaded items from the truck into temporary storage at the Springfield Department of Public Works until the beds are distributed.

"A Bed for Every Child is a great example of the credit union's mission of 'people helping people.' I am very proud of the credit unions of the [Cooperative Credit Union Association's] Pioneer Valley Chapter that generously contributed their time, talent and resources to assist in the distribution of these beds to children in need," said David Plantier, president of MassMutual Federal Credit Union of Springfield, Mass., one of seven credit unions raising money for A Bed for Every Child.

While unloading, Freedom Credit Union President/CEO Glenn Welch commented, "It is sad that not every child in school has his or her own bed to sleep in at night. At Freedom Credit Union, we are proud to have provided 24 beds and we look forward to donating more next year."

"Most of us take for granted the bed we sleep in each night; but there are thousands of Massachusetts children growing up in poverty who have no bed of their own. A bed is a very basic need that many low-to-no-income families simply cannot afford," said Robyn Frost, executive director of the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless. "We are so grateful to the participating Pioneer Valley credit unions for their generosity and dedication to this program."

Pioneer Valley Credit Union of Springfield also lent its full-fledged support. "Our members and staff were instrumental in helping us raise money to purchase five beds for this very worthy cause. We are thankful we can make an impact and provide a bed for every child," said Anabela Grenier, the credit union's president/CEO.

Other participating credit unions in Massachusetts included Arrha Credit Union, Springfield; Franklin First Federal Credit Union, Greenfield; Premier Source Credit Union, East Longmeadow; and UMassFive College Federal Credit Union, Amherst. All are members of the Cooperative Credit Union Association (CCUA). Additional deliveries were made in June (Springfield) and September (Amherst).

In recent years, more than 4,000 children in all corners of the state have received beds with the support of Massachusetts credit unions affiliated with CCUA.

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[About the Cooperative Credit Union Association](#)

The Cooperative Credit Union Association in Marlborough, Mass., promotes the interests of nearly 200 credit unions located throughout Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Delaware. CCUA is, first and foremost, an advocate for its members before Congress and state legislatures, regulatory bodies and the public. In addition, it provides an array of services including educational programs, workshops and conferences; a daily e-briefing on all the latest news and issues facing credit unions; and, through its CU Connect program—a select group of service providers and system partners – previews and offers quality products and services to its member credit unions.

[About A Bed for Every Child](#)

A Bed for Every Child is an initiative of the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless that distributes new twin beds to children living in poverty throughout Massachusetts.

Photo 1

Among those gathered for the Oct. 16 bed delivery were, from left: City Connects Coordinator Stephanie Sanabria; Christopher Brown, MassMutual Federal Credit Union; Springfield Mayor Domenic Sarno; Glenn Welch, Freedom Credit Union; David Plantier, MassMutual Federal Credit Union; Anabela Grenier and Trecia Marchand, Pioneer Valley Credit Union; and Springfield Public School Chief Communications Officer Azell Cavaan.

Photo 2

Credit union representatives lend a hand unpacking the truck.