

**United Federal Credit Union – Press Release**

January 3, 2022

Contact: Diana Wake

Phone: (888) 982-1400 ext. 6891

Email: dwake@UnitedFCU.com

United Federal Credit Union, 150 Hilltop Road, St. Joseph, Michigan, 49085

**United Federal Credit Union’s Virtual ‘Pay It Forward’ Program Helps Local Communities with More Than $19,000 Donated**

**ST. JOSEPH, Mich. –** United Federal Credit Union (United) donated more than $19,300 to 54 different individuals and community organizations across six states during its 14th annual Pay It Forward initiative. The 2021 contributions were the largest ever donated by the program.

The Pay It Forward program provided $20 to every employee to give to a needy individual, family, or organization of their choice. Many departments and branches combined funds and even added their own financial contributions to create a more substantial donation, further demonstrating the passion Team United has for its members and communities.

The program began in 2008 with a request from employees that they use the money otherwise spent on internal holiday celebrations to help people in the community. In the first year, United raised $5,000.

United President/CEO Terry O’Rourke credited the company’s culture and the dedication to service by employees for the Pay It Forward program’s continued growth and success.

“The thought and consideration each individual and department puts into thinking how these dollars can offer extra help during the holiday season for a family, an organization, or other members of the community is remarkable,” said O’Rourke. “This was another year filled with challenges for our friends and family across the country, but when Team United saw a need, they found a way to offer a helping hand.”

Employees in all United’s branches, corporate buildings, and support teams raised money to benefit a variety of institutions that help children, seniors, veterans, and animals or that aid in the fight against cancer, domestic violence, and hunger. The teams also identified individuals and families struggling with illnesses and other life-altering challenges, and helped those people through direct contributions.

For the second year, United employees participated in a virtual meeting to hear more about how each department utilized the charitable funds. Employees used technology to share their stories and promote the spirit of giving during the holiday season.

“Every year I am amazed by our employees’ enthusiasm for Pay It Forward. They show their caring nature and go above and beyond to help our communities,” said O’Rourke. “This year was another challenging year and we would not have made it through without our team’s dedication to United’s mission. We are proud to be able to support and improve the lives of our members and our communities.”

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**About United**

United Federal Credit Union has served its Members since 1949 by helping them to build a sound financial future. United consists of more than 180,000 Member/owners worldwide and manages assets in excess of $3.7 billion. Its corporate offices and main branch are in St. Joseph, Mich., with additional branches in Arkansas, Indiana, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, and Ohio. Federally insured by NCUA. Equal opportunity lender. Equal housing lender. For more information visit [UnitedFCU.com](http://www.unitedfcu.com)

# # #