



CHRISTMAS CARING IS ABOUT GIVING

Charitable Foundation partners with KCCU to help members

(December 23, 2014 – Kingston, ON.) Kingston Community Credit Union's staff decided over twenty years ago to stop giving presents to each other. Maryann Halladay and the late Betty Ann Palmer thought up the idea of having the staff pool their money and helping less fortunate Credit Union members at Christmas with two weeks of groceries including turkeys and all the trimmings and gifts for their kids. The Christmas Caring Program has been going strong annually for over twenty years. This year's program was run by Arlene O'Neill along with Maryann Halladay and many volunteers whose compassion for others is so evident. Many tears of joy are shed from those who give and those who receive their generosity.

This is the fourth year in a row the Ontario Credit Union Charitable Foundation (OCUCF) has supported this initiative with a generous \$2,000 donation to assist in the purchase of food as part of its province wide food drive initiative. The KCCU Christmas Caring Program is having a significant impact in the community helping to relieve members who might otherwise have to choose between paying bills and having food for the family over the holidays and gifts for their children.

"KCCU cares about social justice and the Christmas Caring Program is a program run by volunteers with every nickel going to help less fortunate members when they need it most" said Maryann Halladay, founder and former Deputy CEO of the community Credit Union. "We supply the entire Christmas meal plus enough food to last at least a couple of weeks. I have been moved to tears seeing the gratitude in the eyes of people we've helped. Once they get back on their feet again, many Christmas Caring recipients give presents and volunteer their time as a way to demonstrate their appreciation for the help they received when they really needed it.

In fact, The Christmas Caring program has assisted over 900 members and their families since its humble beginnings in 1991. In 2014, ten families received groceries and gifts to help them through a financially challenging year. Many who have been helped in the past now donate toys, gifts and monies for food to help current member families in the spirit of sharing at Christmas.

KCCU is owned by its members. The Credit Union was founded in 1957, and has grown to become one of Ontario's most award-winning, co-operatively oriented credit unions having shared over \$2 Million dollars of profit with members over the past five years and having donated \$1 Million to the community over the same period. KCCU has over \$140 Million in assets under administration, serving more than ten thousand members with its four branches downtown at 18 Market Street, in KGH 76 Stuart St., in Kingston West at 795 Gardiners Road at Taylor-Kidd and in the Kingslake Plaza at 1201 Division Street. To find out more about KCCU on the web visit www.kccu.ca.

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