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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Community Choice Picks Up the Check for Outstanding Meal Bills for 4,045 Students

Farmington Hills, Mich., July 15, 2020 – Community Choice Credit Union continued its tradition of helping local school children and parents by paying off outstanding lunch/meal bills in dozens of schools located in communities across the state.



Pictured, from left, LaToya Walker (Community Choice Royal Oak Member Center manager), Steven Attanasio (chef), Carrie Hall (Food Services Director for Ferndale Schools) and Jeremy Cybulski, community engagement manager at Community Choice.

In total, the credit union will donate more than \$43,000 to pay off the outstanding bills of 4,045 students in 20 districts and in 121 individual schools with the intention of helping both local families and the schools. Parents can send their kids back to class knowing that their kids are starting the school year with no outstanding balance or restrictions, and school districts are relieved of the burden of having to adjust their budgets to pay off the debt.

The donations, which were made throughout the summer, come from the credit union's community outreach fund earmarked for community events that were cancelled earlier this year.

added expenses of starting a school year, like purchasing school supplies, uniforms, or new clothes for growing kids. So, if we can remove the stress of also having to pay off a school lunch bill from last year, we're happy to do it."

Carolyn Thomas, child nutrition consultant for the Macomb Intermediate School District, expressed gratitude for the donation on behalf of the families and the district.

"School meal programs are so important; no child should ever have to worry about where their next meal is coming from," Thomas said. "Community Choice paid the balance for 184 children in our district. I heard from several families after we told them that their negative balance had been cleared by this donation. They were so grateful. It was such a welcome message to be able to let them know that they didn't have to worry anymore. Especially now, when more people have lost their jobs and they're really looking to just meet their basic needs."

The Credit Union paid off the balances for students in the following districts:

- Michigan Center Schools
- Huron Valley Schools
- Orchard View Schools
- South Lyon Public Schools

- Northville Public Schools
- South Redford Schools
- Ferndale Schools
- Macomb Intermediate Schools
- Western Public Schools
- Wayne Westland Schools
- Livonia Schools
- Farmington Public Schools
- Eastpointe Community Schools

Additionally, the debt was settled for seniors at Southfield High School for the Arts & Technology; for students in three elementary schools in the Lake Shore Public Schools; students at Avondale High School; for two elementary schools in the Warren Consolidated district; two schools in the Jackson County Intermediate School District; the high school middle school in the Holland Public Schools; and for two schools in the Wyandotte district.

“We hope this contribution helps get our families off to a great start to a new school year,” Cybulski added.

Along with paying off meal bills, the Credit Union will once again reach out a helping hand to school kids and their parents when it hosts its popular backpack giveaways in July and August. This year, eight events are planned throughout the state at local Community Choice member centers. Children will receive a backpack filled with schools supplies along with other local treats.

About Community Choice Credit Union:

Community Choice Credit Union believes in helping its neighbors across the state of Michigan achieve the life they desire. Since 1935, the Credit Union has offered a wide variety of products and services that help consumers and business owners achieve their financial goals. Community Choice’s Give Big efforts have resulted in an investment of more than \$1.1 million and 25,909 volunteer hours into communities across the state. Their foundation, the Community Choice Foundation, has awarded more than \$1 million in scholarships to graduating seniors who attend a Michigan college or university. Anyone who lives in the state of Michigan is eligible to become a member. For more information, visit www.CommunityChoice.com.