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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wyandotte, Mich., Aug. 15, 2020 – Families participating in Community Choice Credit Union’s backpack giveaway in Wyandotte on Aug. 8 received a surprise when, in addition to a backpack full of school supplies for children who attended the event, each car in line received a donation from Gleaners Community Food Bank.

Through a partnership with Gleaners, every family in line for backpacks also received a 25-pound box of dry food and canned goods, and a 25-pound box of fresh produce. In all, Gleaners donated 400 boxes of canned foods and 400 boxes of fresh produce.

“The donation from Gleaners was a last-minute surprise, and we’re so grateful for their help,” said Nicole Baker, Wyandotte Member Center Manager. “We spread the word through social media that Gleaners was going to supply this food for families. Some people who showed up didn’t come for the backpack, but they really needed the food. We were able to help so many Wyandotte families who are struggling right now.”

While most happily accepted the food donation, others graciously decided to pay it forward.

“One person who came for the backpack told us they really didn’t need the food, but then said she knew of veteran who was in need and would hand deliver the boxes to him,” Baker said. “I just love hearing stories like that. People who received this unexpected gift decided to help others who needed it more.”

The giving continued when Community Choice shared the remaining food with the Salvation Army and a local food bank.

Community Choice will host a total of eight backpack giveaways this summer; this was the first time an event was hosted in Wyandotte. Around 300 backpacks filled with supplies and other goodies were handed out to members of the community.

“It was a lot of fun, and it was nice to hear the parents and kids tell us which school they attend and to personally hear them say ‘thank you’ for the school supplies; they were so appreciative,” Baker said. “We’re looking forward to hosting this event each year and watching it grow.”

The annual backpack giveaways are some of Community Choice’s most cherished events. They reflect the true spirit of the credit union, which is to help those who live in the communities they serve.

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 variety of products and services that benefit both consumers and business owners. The credit union is committed to helping the community and upholds a Give Big philosophy. Since 2008, team members have volunteered more than 25,909 volunteer hours in communities across the state. Its foundation, The Community Choice Foundation, awarded more than \$1.1 million in scholarships to graduating high school seniors who attended a Michigan college or university during its first 10 years. In 2020, the Scholarship Program expanded to include financial support for continuing education and skilled trade programs. To learn more, visit www.CommunityChoice.com