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Extra Credit Union Raises \$1,305 for Local Homeless Students

WARREN, Mich. – They don't have a constant place to call home. Meals may be scarce. But at least the 1,181 registered homeless students in Macomb County have school—a stable and secure place they can count on while life may seem upside down. And luckily for these students, they also have the help of the [Macomb Intermediate School District's \(MISD\) Homeless Education Project](#) to provide the students and their families with community resources, as well as personal care items and even food.

And this year, because of the great support [Extra Credit Union](#) received from its staff and credit union members, the financial institution was able to donate \$1,305 to the [MISD Homeless Education Project](#), in addition to 664 personal care items including hats, gloves, scarves, socks, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, and others.

The [project](#) assists parents and their families while they are temporarily between homes by providing them with useful daily items and necessities, as well as plugging them in to community resources where they can obtain additional assistance.

The MISD's School Health and Related Services Consultant and liaison with the project, Mary Lebioda, says "the numbers of homeless students in Macomb County continues to exceed 1,500 each school year."

"The MISD supports school stability by providing each student with a backpack, school supplies, socks, hats/gloves and hygiene items," Lebioda said. "The very generous donation from Extra Credit Union supports the MISD's goal of educational stability for all homeless students."

These items will support the project in providing useful items and community resources to the 1,181 homeless students who have been counted so far this school year in Macomb County. Last school year ended with a total of 1,597 homeless students in the county—a number which is expected to be seen again this year, or even surpassed. There were 38,866 homeless youth in Michigan last school year, according to the Michigan Department of Education.

This is the seventh "Mittens for Kids" drive the credit union has hosted annually to benefit the project. And each year, the donations greatly increase. Last year, the credit union donated \$1,068 and 700 personal care items.

"It is so heartwarming to see the continued support of our members and staff as they bring in items or make a monetary donation to help the homeless students right in our local area," said Deidra Williams, President and CEO of Extra Credit Union. "Supporting educational initiatives is

our passion. We are fortunate to have a family with big hearts, who do all they can to help those in the community who need it most.”

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Extra Credit Union (www.extracreditunion.org) was founded in 1954 by a group of educators with \$856 in assets. Today, with two full-service offices in Warren and Sterling Heights, Mich., Extra Credit Union (ECU) has more than 20,000 members and \$221 million in assets. Extra Credit Union works with the local community and educators to provide hands-on learning, financial fundamentals, and customized services to help students and educators make good financial decisions. In addition, ECU provides solution-based lending and credit education programs to open lending possibilities to people of all credit backgrounds in Macomb, Oakland, St. Clair and Wayne counties. Deidra M. Williams serves as President/CEO, leading the credit union in its mission.